

THE
FLOWERS OF NAT.



OF HENRY KLEIN.



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THE
FLOWERS OF WIT.



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TWO VOLUMES IN ONE.

HARTFORD :

PUBLISHED BY OLIVER D. COOKE & CO.

1825.



INTRODUCTION.

TO profess to give a faultless *definition* of Wit would be highly presumptuous, after some writers of eminence have failed in the attempt, and others have declined the task. It is far more easy, as well as more pleasing, to aim at a *description* of the most striking modes, in which men of wit display their talents, although, considered in all their exertions, they may be said to vary their forms like Proteus of old, and change their colours like the chameleon.

Wit may be considered as much the same talent as genius. Or it may be said to be that species of genius, which displays itself, not in long and deliberate compositions, such as epic poetry and tragedy, but in the short and rapid sallies of conversation.

Men of wit make quick associations of the most distant ideas, and are happy in the communication of them in clear, energetic, and pointed language. They surprise by the novelty of their thoughts, and please by the various turns they give to them. When they make their

humblest efforts they play upon the different meanings of words : when they take a flight more worthy of their talents, they elicit a noble sentiment or striking image, from a common observation, occurrence, or maxim : thus they discover and communicate unexpected, yet just analogies of things, and they show the most extensive exercise of their powers, by a ready command over the most brilliant figures of rhetoric :—they illustrate their ideas by a simile, adorn them with the colours of a metaphor, or elevate them by an hyperbole.

These characteristics appear to be common to all men of wit : but he whose wit is tempered with judgment, and refined by benevolence and decorum, directs it against proper objects alone. When he indulges in the frolic of ridicule, or the asperity of satire, his delight is to make folly contemptible, and vice odious. He differs, therefore, as widely as possible in the application of his talents, from the authors of those pernicious works of various kinds, which, to the disgrace of our English literature, are frequently issued from the press ; and which, to the no less disgrace of English curiosity, meet with too welcome and too general a perusal. He never lurks in ambush to throw the poisoned dart at the innocent and unoffending ; never assails public or private characters with unmerited satire ; nor does he take pleasure to increase the discontent and inflame the passions of the vulgar.—He does not play the part of the buffoon, the democrat, or the scoffing infidel, to gratify the

malevolence and excite the laughter of the licentious, the lawless, and the profane.

The bon mots, or colloquial sallies of such men of wit as have been described, vary according to different occasions : some are solid as well as bright ; some are sharp, but not *rough* ; some are keen, but not malignant ; some are humorous, without vulgarity ; and all are pointed, without asperity. They are calculated to excite, not the merriment of the multitude, but the surprise, admiration, and pleasure of the refined part of society. They ought not to be fleeting and transient, as the sounds that originally conveyed them to the ear ; they ought not to be regarded as fire-works, which attract notice by their brilliancy, and afford no more than a momentary pleasure. They deserve, on the contrary, to be considered as diamonds, that are solid and durable as well as brilliant ; and, like diamonds, they ought to be preserved with care, and displayed to advantage ; that they may give pleasure to mankind through successive ages, and may perpetuate some degree at least of that admiration which was expressed by those who had the pleasure to hear them first pronounced.

By the ancient Greeks and Romans the branches of knowledge which give the moderns so many advantages were comparatively little cultivated, and of course there was not such scope for the extensive range of the imagination over so many subjects as are familiar to the moderns. But if the current of the thoughts of the ancients was comparatively narrow, it was clear, deep,

and rapid ; what they wanted in variety, they made up by energy ; their sallies in conversation were like their onsets in battle, prompt, ardent, and effectual at once to settle the point. To them belonged “ thoughts that breathe, and words that burn,” the “*acer spiritus, ac vis*,” the energy divine of the soul : their *apothegms* were the maxims of heroes and philosophers, and they contain the essence of wisdom and of greatness of mind.

The Spartans were famed for the caustic spirit, the keenness, and the conciseness of their speeches. But a style approaching the *laconic*, has in all ages, and in all countries, marked the conversation of acute and profound thinkers.

The apothegms or bon mots of the ancients and moderns possess different kinds of excellence, and are found to be adapted to the different states of civilization, refinement, and taste. The ancients addressed the judgment, the moderns appeal more to the imagination : the former spoke with a view to action, the latter to produce surprise : the aim of the former was to appear, and to be, heroic and noble ; that of the latter, to gain the character of being agreeable, and to raise a laugh : the former were more sententious, grave, and deep ; the latter are more facetious, gay, and superficial :—and yet, in justice to both ancients and moderns, this contrast should be closed with a concession honourable to both parties ; for in the works of the ancients may be found many *striking sallies of wit*, and among the moderns many *profound maxims*

of wisdom. Instances not a few to confirm this observation will occur in the following pages.

PROFESSOR PORSON has been heard to say, and his remark will be found upon examination to be perfectly just, "that many of the most admired jokes, in our popular jest-books, may be found in the works of Athenæus, Plutarch, and other ancient writers." It is not, however, easy to trace the origin of a bon-mot, with certainty; and many an one, like an illegitimate child, may be attributed to a wrong father. It is highly probable that similar situations may have produced similar thoughts in minds of equal capacity and strength; and the authors of them, although remote from each other, both with respect to time as well as place, may have been equally original in the conception of similar thoughts. Cases, however, differ very materially with respect to the probabilities of originality. When Hans de Veil, a Cambridge scholar, wrote his epigram on the age of Miss Fowle, he might possibly recollect the keen remark of Cicero upon a similar occasion; but it is ridiculous to suppose, that John, the great duke of Marlborough, who was singularly illiterate, quoted the admirable repartee of Ariston, the Spartan king, to his Athenian captives, when he made a no less admirable reply to his prisoner marshal Tallard.*

The interest which such a compilation as the following is capable of exciting, it is presumed,

* See vol. i. No. 400.

may be heightened by authenticating as many bon mots as possible, by referring them to their original speakers. For surely the case is much the same with respect to wit, as it is with respect to painting:—we may be pleased with a good portrait, because it is well executed; we are better pleased, when we are told it was painted by some distinguished artist; and we are most gratified of all when we are certain it is the likeness of some eminent person.

Still, however, sallies of wit that are anonymous may have very strong claims to our notice and approbation. They may be considered as so many foundlings thrown upon the world: their origin is obscure; their parents are unascertained, though they may have no cause to be ashamed of them; and they deserve to be admitted and reared in a safe and lasting asylum, that they may survive for the benefit and ornament of the public at large.

For these reasons the following work is divided into two parts.

The first part contains Bon Mots, the *authors of which are ascertained*, placed under the names of their respective authors.

The second part contains Bon Mots that are chiefly *anonymous*.

These parts are added an Appendix, containing Remarks on *Punning* and *Select Puns*, &c. illustrative, like the preceding articles, of national and individual characters.

Indulgence is requested for some articles in this

work, because they are stated from *recollection*. It is hoped they will not be found to be so much altered for the worse, that, like the children kidnapped by gypsies, their parents would not easily know them again. Some, it is presumed, are *original*, and were never published before : others have been taken from scarce works, particularly from *old* and *curious* collections in the British Museum; and a few translated from the Greek, Latin and French languages, appear in an English dress probably for the *first* time.

Some indeed have been taken from common jest-books; but it would have been perfectly inconsistent with the plan and complexion of this work, not to have carefully separated these FLOWERS OF WIT, from the noxious plants with which they were associated. And if a few of these bon mots so selected be well known, they possess such acknowledged excellence, that the compiler would be justly censured, were he to deprive his readers of the pleasure of seeing them inserted in a work of this kind.

The reader must not be disappointed on finding few specimens of the wit of our contemporaries introduced into the following collection : not but that the compiler is fully aware of the important addition, both in point of number and excellence, that might have been made, if he had inserted the bon mots of eminent living persons. But he thinks, as a matter of delicacy, that such a display should be reserved for the period, when prejudice shall have subsided, when praise may be bestowed without the alloy

of detraction and envy, and the public curiosity may be gratified without the risk of giving offence to individuals. He has always regarded, with no small degree of admiration, the custom of the antients, "to defer their sacrifices to heroes till after sunset."

In such a collection as this, it cannot be reasonably expected that *all* bon mots that are valuable and excellent are to be found. The reader must make allowance for the peculiar taste, and perhaps the contracted views of the collector. In passing through a spacious garden, although with the express intention of forming a nosegay, many flowers of equal beauty to those that are gathered may be passed by; many a rose, carnation, or hyacinth, may be left behind, and be reserved for the more observant eye and the more delicate fancy of a succeeding florist.

Yet if this collection be not thought *complete*, it is presumed there can be no reasonable complaint of its want of *variety*. In the following pages will be found instances of profound sagacity, determined courage, keen satire, refined praise, and insight into characters, the sublime sentiments of wisdom, and the beautiful illustrations of fancy:

"As at the feast with plenteous dainties grac'd,
Dish after dish excites the roving taste;
So while my muse repeats her varied strains,
Tale following tale the ravish'd ear detains."

If an apology for such a literary pursuit as

* Altered from Hoole's Ariosto.

this should be thought proper, to soften the asperity of certain fastidious critics, an apology may easily be urged. The compiler of this work, from its desultory and entertaining nature, found it calculated to employ and amuse the hours of frequent indisposition; and when he enjoyed a better state of health it served as a relaxation from his more arduous and important studies, the results of which are laid before the public. Considered in this latter point of view, such a literary pursuit has the sanction of the most respectable examples. JULIUS CÆSAR did not think it derogatory to his talents, his rank, and his exalted offices, to make a collection of apothegms. Did not TACITUS the philosophical historian, PLUTARCH one of the best moral writers of antiquity, and VALERIUS MAXIMUS a Roman of an illustrious family and high military distinction, compose similar works? And in later times, have not ERASMUS the great critic and theologian, CAMDEN the most antient antiquary, and LORD BACON the prince of modern philosophers, diversified their studies and added to their reputation by making such collections?

Can it be thought absurd or culpable, that a student wearied by the labour of instructing others, and wishing to relax from the severity of professional pursuits, should seek for occasional repose of mind in biography and miscellaneous reading? Suppose it has been his delight, while resident upon the classic banks of the Isis, occasionally to retire into the *yew-mantled garden* once trodden by HARRINGTON, SOMERS,

CHATHAM, WARTON, HEADLEY, and BOWLES; and as he strayed amid its mazy walks. indulged the pleasures of imagination so far as to realize the poetic dream of Horace:

"Hark ! does Phrensy's sweet control
With magic charms transport my soul
I seem to hear, and to behold,
The sages and the bards of old :
And as in social bliss they move
Through Elysium's happy grove,
The balmy zephyrs constant play,
And streams perennial round them play."*

Awaking from his reverie, he is anxious to communicate the impressions to others, that they may feel the same enthusiasm and enjoy the same pleasure.

The following pages are designed to beguile a lonely, or occupy an idle hour. They are intended to convey some ideas of the wisdom that has ennobled conversation, and the wit that has enlivened it. They may amuse the gay, and exhilarate the grave. They admit all who have a relish for such an elegant enjoyment into the company of many of the most illustrious characters that adorn the annals of biography.

Here both the antients and the moderns unite to contribute to their entertainment. Here they

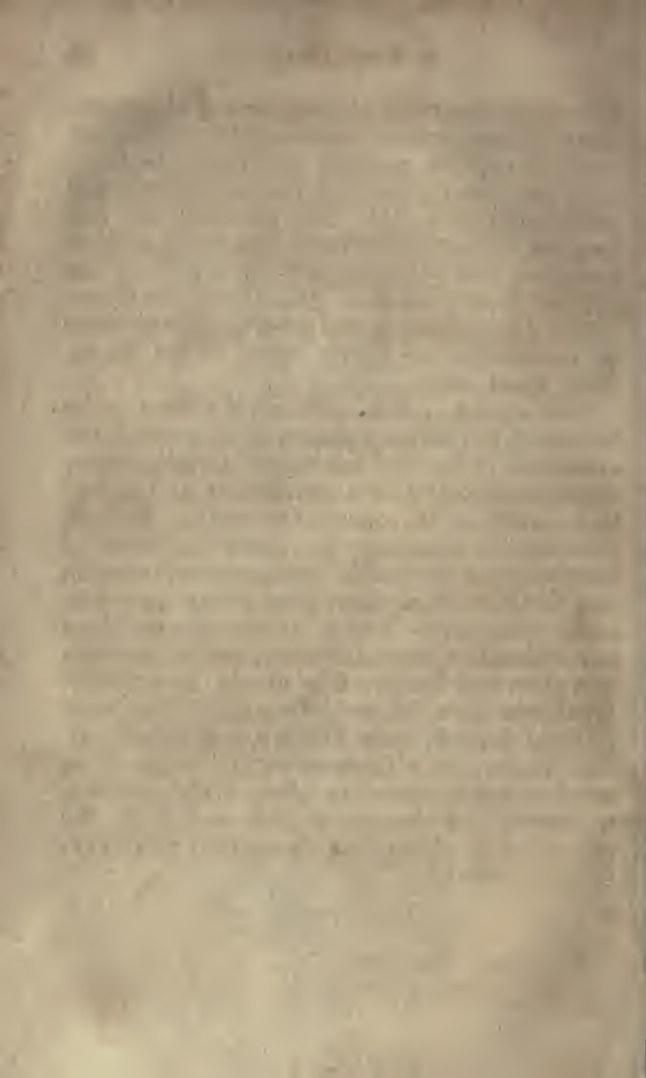
* *Auditis? an me ludit amibilis
Insania? audire et videor pios
Errare per lucos, amœnæ
Quos, et aguæ subeunt et auræ.*

HOR Carm. Lib. iii. 4.

may derive the mingled gratifications of instruction and pleasure from the *philosophers* and the *heroes*, the *scholars* and the *politicians*, the *sovereigns* and the *courtiers* of the most enlightened countries of the world. And here they may find frequent occasions to remark, that many of those who shine most conspicuous in the annals of history, such as LEONIDAS, ALEXANDER the Great, HENRY IV. of France, and the Czar PETER, were as remarkable for saying good things as for doing great ones.

Such a work as this, although it cannot aspire to dignity, or challenge praise, yet, if properly executed, is calculated not merely for momentary amusement, but to do a permanent and important service to the cause of morality. While it constitutes a miscellany of various exertions of facetiousness, it exhibits sentiments of wisdom and virtue, and the knowledge of the most eminent characters; and it communicates these particulars in a mode the most pleasant, because it is short and lively. The choice speeches of those who have rendered themselves illustrious by their talents, may kindle a sympathetic ardour, impart the electric spark of virtue from mind to mind, make us glow with generous approbation of whatever is fair and good, and

PROMPT US TO ENDEAVOUR TO EMULATE THE EXAMPLES WE ADMIRE.



THE
FLOWERS OF WIT.

PART I.

*Bon Mots referred to their Authors, and the Names of
those Authors alphabetically arranged.*

JOSEPH ABOU.

1. CANDOUR is the companion of true wisdom and solid learning.—Joseph Abou, an Arabian doctor of great reputed attainments in science, being asked to solve a difficult problem, very frankly confessed his total ignorance of the subject. “How is this?” said the proposer of the problem; “does not the caliph pay you for your knowledge?” “Certainly,” said the doctor, “he pays me for my knowledge; for all his treasures, great as they are, would not be sufficient to pay me for my ignorance.”

ADDISON.

THIS sublime moralist, elegant critic, and humorous describer of men and manners, whose works furnish instruction to youth, amusement to age, and delight to

all who peruse them, was remarkable for his taciturnity.

2. Conscious of his talents as a writer, he acknowledged his deficiency in conversation. "I can draw," said he, "a bill for a thousand pounds, although I have not a guinea in my pocket."

3. He very humorously compared physicians to an army of ancient Britons, as described by Julius Cæsar. He says of them, "Some slay on foot, and some in chariots. If the infantry do not so much execution as the cavalry, it is because they cannot convey themselves with so much velocity into all quarters, nor despatch their business in so short a time."

4. Mr. Temple Stanyan borrowed a sum of money of Addison, with whom he lived in habits of friendship, conversing on all subjects with equal freedom; but from this time Mr. Stanyan agreed implicitly to every thing Addison advanced, and never as formerly, disputed his positions. This change of behaviour did not long escape the notice of so acute an observer, to whom it was by no means agreeable. It happened one day, that a subject was started, on which they had before warmly controverted each other's notions, but now Mr. Stanyan entirely acquiesced in Addison's opinion, without offering one word in defence of his own. Addison was displeased, and said, with considerable emotion, 'Sir, either contradict me, or pay me my money.'

5. A poetaster brought Addison one of his compositions, and begged his opinion of it. It was a copy of very indifferent verses, and they appeared the worse, because he had prefixed to them several lines from Homer, and thus exposed them to a very disadvantageous contrast. Addison with great warmth struck out the lines from Homer; and when the surprised poetaster asked the reason: 'Do you not recollect,' said Addi-

son, 'the Roman emperor, whose statues appeared to him very ridiculous when they were placed near those of the gods?'

6. *On Lady Manchester at Paris.*

While haughty Gallia's dames, that spread
O'er their pale cheeks an artful red,
Beheld this beauteous stranger there,
In native charms divinely fair,
Confusion in their looks they show'd,
And with unborrow'd blushes glow'd.

GUSTAVUS ADOLPHUS.

7. In less than a year he overran the greatest part of Germany, and surmounted every obstacle opposed to his arms. When he was besieging Ingolstadt, his horse was killed under him by a cannon ball. To an officer who ran to remount him, he coolly said, 'I have had a narrow escape—but perhaps the pear is not yet ripe.'

8. Upon a similar occasion, his chancellor entreated him not to risk his life so often. Gustavus said to him with warmth, 'You are always too cold; and you stop my progress.' 'True, sire,' said the chancellor, 'I confess I am cold; but if I did not sometimes throw a little of my ice into your fire, you would be burnt to ashes.'

9. Sir Henry Vane, who was suspected to have been bribed by the court of Madrid, pressed Gustavus in a vehement manner to adopt certain measures. To get rid of his importunity, he said to Sir Henry, 'Sir, I do not understand your language, you talk *Spanish*.'

AGESILAUS.

THIS renowned king of Sparta did honour to the rigid institutions of his country. Mean in person, but

exalted in mind, he was successful in his public conduct, and amiable in private life.

10. When Agesilaus heard any persons praised or censured, he remarked, that it was as necessary to know the characters of the speakers, as the characters of those who were the subjects of their opinions.

11. A friend asked him, how true glory was to be acquired. He answered, "By contempt of death."

12. When he was asked, if he was desirous to hear a man famous for imitating the notes of the nightingale, he declined the offer, saying, "I have heard the nightingale herself."

13. He was asked, "What ought children to be taught?" His answer was, "they ought to learn that which it will be proper for them to practise when they reach mature age."

What is this, but the most concise and the most excellent description that ever was given of a *right* education?

14. To a person applauding the happiness of the Persian king, who was very young, he said, "Priam was happy at his age."

15. Being once asked which virtue was superior, Fortitude or Justice: he answered, "Were all men Just, there would be no occasion for Fortitude."

16. "Inform me," said a friend to him, "of the means to establish a high reputation." His answer was, "Speak well, and act better."

ALEXANDER THE GREAT.

No hero makes so distinguished a figure in ancient history as Alexander the Great. His courage was un-

daunted, his ambition boundless, his friendship ardent, his taste refined ; and, what is very extraordinary, he appears to have conversed with the same fire and spirit with which he fought.

17. Philip, his father, knowing him to be very swift, wished him to run for the prize at the Olympic Games. " I would comply with your request," said Alexander, " if kings were to be my competitors."

18. When Alexander made a libation to the heroes who fought in the Trojan war, he placed a crown of gold upon the tomb of Achilles ; saying, that Achilles was the most fortunate man in the world ; for while he lived, Patroclus was his friend ; and when dead, Homer perpetuated his memory.

19. Alexander went to Delphi to consult the oracle there, wishing to know what success was likely to attend the projects of his vast ambition. The priestess pretended that it was not lawful for him to consult her at that time, and refused to enter the temple. Alexander, impetuous and impatient, seized her by the arm ; and as he led her in by force, she cried, " Ah my son, no one can resist you." " I want no more," exclaimed Alexander, " this oracle is sufficient."

20. When he passed into Asia to attack Darius, he made rich presents to his general officers, insomuch that Parmenio asked him, " Sir, what do you keep for yourself ?" His reply was, " hope."

21. After the battle of Issus, the complete rout of the Persian army put Alexander in possession of the camp of Darius, in which were his mother, wife, and children. A rumour had been spread that Darius was slain, and this threw all the captive royal family into the deepest affliction. Alexander, anxious to inform them that this report was false, and wishing to give them comfort, paid them a visit. As he entered the tent of Darius, Hephæstion, his most intimate friend who was very

handsome, and rather taller than Alexander, was close by his side. As soon as they approached, the queen-mother, who had fallen prostrate, raised up her head, and addressed herself to Hephæstion, supposing him to be Alexander. The attendants telling her of her mistake, she was much embarrassed, and began to make many apologies. Alexander allowed her not to proceed, but raised her up, and in the most gracious manner said. "It is of no importance, madam, for he too is Alexander."

Which of the two (says Valerius Maximus, from whose work this anecdote is taken) should we first congratulate; *him* who had the disposition to make such a speech, or *him* who had the felicity to hear it spoken of himself?

22. When he was dying, his attendants asked him where his treasures were deposited. His answer was, "In the hands of my friends."

ALFRED THE GREAT.

THE most humane, as well as the most intrepid of monarchs. Such were his genius and his attainments, that, had he not been a sovereign, he would have been justly celebrated as a grammarian, a rhetorician, a philosopher, a musician, and an architect.

23. Harassed by the invasions of the barbarous Danes, he found a place of refuge in the isle of Athelney, in Somersetshire, and there he was reduced to great extremities. A pilgrim found him out, and requested alms. The queen informed Alfred that they had only one small loaf remaining, which was insufficient for themselves and the friends who were gone in quest of fish and other necessaries, though with small hopes of success. "Give the poor man one half of the loaf," said the king: "he that could feed five thousand men with five loaves and two fishes, can certainly make the remaining half of the loaf more than sufficient for our necessities."

The pilgrim was relieved ; and the king's friends returned soon after, with an unexpectedly ample supply of provisions.

AMBASSADORS.

25. An Italian prince, remarkable for pride and ill-humour, once walking to the window of his presence-chamber with a foreign ambassador, said to him, " Do you know, sir, that one of my ancestors forced a person of your description from this balcony into the street ?" " It might be so," was the reply, " but probably it was not the fashion then, as it is now, for ambassadors to wear swords."

25. A noble lord took leave of Louis XIV. just before he went as ambassador to a foreign court. " The most material injunction I lay upon you," said the king, " is, that you pursue a line of conduct directly opposite to that of your predecessor." " Sure," replied the noble lord, " you may depend upon my acting in such a manner, as to make it perfectly unnecessary to give the same instructions to my successor."

26. A Spanish ambassador boasted of the great military power of his master, to Henry IV. of France.—The king, thinking to put to the haughty Don to silence, said, with his usual vivacity, " Great as you may think your master's power to stop the progress of my arms, if the whim should take me, I will breakfast at Milan, hear mass at Rome, and dine at Naples." " Sir," replied the ambassador with a significant sneer, " if you can travel so fast, you may chance to finish the day by *hearing vespers in Sicily* ?"

FATHER AMBROSE.

27. He was a pious and learned Capuchin. He was conscious of his excessive self-love, his excessive delicacy, and his excessive desire of fame. An adherence

to the precepts of Christianity cured him of all these faults. To his natural pride he opposed the humility of the Gospel. "It is self-love," said he, "that corrupts our virtues and destroys our happiness. Of a hundred things that wound us in our intercourse with society, ninety-nine were never meant to give offence. But pride puts the worst construction upon the conduct of others. Let it take all things as it will, I am determined to suffer all. Should my enemy even spit in my face, have I not a handkerchief to wipe it?"

ANACHARSIS.

THE Athenians presented the freedom of their city to this sagacious and enlightened Scythian, the only honour of the kind ever conferred upon a foreigner. He deserved the compliment; or he was so great an admirer of the laws and arts of Greece, that he endeavoured to introduce them into his own country; this rash attempt, however, cost him his life,

28. He said, "The vine produces three sorts of grapes: the first, of pleasure; the second, of intoxication; and the third, of repentance."

29. "The sight of a man intoxicated, gives the best lesson of sobriety."

30. "Laws are like spiders webs, which entangle flies, but cannot retain larger creatures."

31. A coxcomb, who had nothing else to boast but his being a native of Greece, viewing Anacharsis with eyes of contempt, reproached him with the barbarous state of Scythia. "I confess," said Anacharsis, "I have some reason to be ashamed of my country; but has your country no reason to be ashamed of you?"

This question of the philosopher is applicable to those narrow-minded men who traduce foreigners, without examining their pretension to notice and respect, and who are ignorant that virtue and merit are

not limited by degrees of longitude, but may be the fruits of every soil, without distinction, from Russia to Peru.

MARQUIS ST. ANDRE.

32. THE marquis applied to Louvois, the war minister under Louis XIV., for a small place then vacant. Louvois having received some complaints against the marquis, refused to comply. The marquis, somewhat nettled, rather hastily said, "If I were to enter again into the service, I know what I would do." "And pray what would you do?" retorted the minister in a furious tone. "I would take care," replied St. Andre, who had now recollected himself, "to behave in such a manner that your excellency should have nothing to reproach me with. Louvois, agreeably surprised at his reply, immediately granted his request.

MICHAEL ANGELO.

HE united the various talents of a sublime painter, sculptor, and architect. His *forte* as a painter was displayed in his grand designs and his anatomical skill; his finest specimens of sculpture were a Cupid and a Bacchus, executed in the perfect style of the antique; and the church of St. Peter at Rome stands an unrivalled monument of his skill as an architect. No artist was ever more honoured while living, or revered when dead.

33. Solitude had many charms for him. Retired completely from the world, he formed those sublime conceptions, which astonish mankind in his sculpture and painting. He said, 'Painting is a very jealous lady, who endures no rival to share my affections.' He was asked why he did not marry. He said, 'Painting is my wife, and my works are my children.'

34. His father, not being pleased with his great attachment to painting, used to scold, when he saw

him engaged in his darling employment. One day he threw himself into a violent rage. The enthusiastic son, instead of saying a word in answer to the old man's reproaches, fixed his eyes attentively upon him, and exclaimed, "What an admirable subject for the pencil is my father in this fine passion!"

APELLES.

35. AN artist showed him a Venus he had painted in a superb dress, and asked him, with an air of self-conceit, to give his opinion of the picture, "My opinion," said Apelles, "is, that you could not make your Venus beautiful, and so you have made her gaudy."

ARIOSTO.

36. THIS great poet built himself a small and plain house at Ferrara, and adjoining to it was a little garden, where he usually walked and composed his verses. He was asked why he did not build a more splendid residence, since he had so beautifully described in his Orlando Furioso many large palaces, fine porticos, and pleasant fountains. His reply was, "It is much more easy to collect words than stones."

In the front of his house was this inscription, which, though concise, well expressed the sentiments of contentment and independence :

*Parva sed opta mihi, sed nulli obnoxia, sed non
Sordida parva meo sed tamen ære, domus.*

"This cot, both small and neat, 's design'd
To speak its master's humble mind ;
'Twas purchas'd at his own expence,
And gives to neighbours no offence."

The emperor Charles V. crowned Ariosto with laurels, the year before he died, as a token of honour, and a presage of the perennial fame of his poems.

ARISTIDES.

He was surnamed the *Just*, and his whole conduct corresponded with this glorious epithet.

37. He sat as judge in a cause when the plaintiff, to prejudice Aristides in his favour, began with saying, that the defendant always acted in opposition to Aristides. Aristides interrupted him, and said, "My friend, you forget yourself : state your case ; for it is *your* cause I am to try, and not my own."

ARISTIPPUS.

THE character of Aristippus was inconsistent with the seclusion and the gravity of a philosopher ; for he was a courtier, a wit, and a man of pleasure. Yet that his desires were under the control of reason, and that he could enjoy or reject pleasure with equal indifference, the following anecdote will show.

38. Dionysius the Tyrant solicited Aristippus to choose one of three very beautiful women. He retained them all, saying, that Paris had acted wrong by presuming to give a preference to one of three goddesses. But when he had conducted the ladies as far as his own door, he dismissed them all, saying, "Philosophers know how to practise, as well as teach, self-command."

39. Diogenes, washing some cabbages, and seeing Aristippus approach, said, "If you knew how to live upon cabbages, you would not pay court to kings." "And if you," replied Aristippus, "knew how to live with kings, you would not wash cabbages."

40. With peculiar felicity of allusion, he compared those who deserted the study of philosophy for other pursuits, to those lovers of Penelope who, instead of courting the mistress, degraded themselves by courting her maid servants.

41. A person expressed surprise to him, that philosophers went always to princes, and not princes to philosophers. "Do you not observe," said he, "that it is usual for physicians to resort to the houses of their patients?"

42. A miser objected to him his luxurious table.—Aristippus showed him an expensive dish of dainties, and said, "Would you not buy this, if it were sold for a penny?" "Certainly I would," said the other. "Then," said Aristippus, "I only give to luxury, what you give to avarice."

ARISTON.

43. A CERTAIN Athenian pronounced an oration in praise of some of his countrymen who had fallen in a battle in which the Spartans were victorious. "If your countrymen," said Ariston, one of the kings of Sparta, to him, "were so praiseworthy, what say you of us who beat them?"

ARISTOTLE.

44. THIS chief of the antient philosophers, being reproached for giving money to a bad man who was in want, answered with his usual accuracy of distinction, "I did not give to the man, but to Humanity."

45. Being asked how friends are to be treated, he answered, "As we would wish them to treat us."

46. At the close of life he was requested by his scholars to nominate a successor. Theophrastus of Lesbos and Menedemus of Rhodes were candidates for this honour. Aristotle ordered two bottles of wine to be brought to him, the one from Rhodes, the other from Lesbos. "These wines," said he, "are both very excellent, but that of Lesbos suits my palate the best." He intended by this trait of delicacy and politeness to give the preference to Theophrastus.

PIOVANO ARLOTTO.

He was a native of Tuscany, and flourished in the fourteenth century. When only a poor curate, his humble condition did not depress his vivacity, nor check the sallies of his wit and humour.

47. As he was once preparing to go a journey, several of his friends requested him to make purchases for them in the town to which he was going ; but all, except one, neglected to supply him with money for the purpose. He only executed the commission of this one ; so that on his return, the others called upon him, and reproached him for his inattention to their wishes. " You must know, my friends," said Arlotto, " that in the course of my journey, I came to the side of a river, and there I took out the papers that contained your commissions, to look them over ; on a sudden a gust of wind arose, and carried all the papers down the stream, except one, which, as it had money in it was too heavy to be blown away."

AUGUSTUS.

48. AMBASSADORS came from Saragossa to inform Augustus, that a palm-tree was growing upon the altar which they had raised to his honour in that place. " This is a proof," said he, " how often you burn sacrifices to me there."

49. Augustus, hearing that Alexander the Great, after conquering a large part of the world, was at a loss how to employ himself, expressed his astonishment. " Could Alexander," said he, " be ignorant, that to conquer countries is a matter of much less labour than to govern them well."

50. He was told of an extravagant Roman knight who had wasted all his property. When his goods were sold by auction, Augustus commissioned a per-

son to bid for his pillow. Being asked why he wished to have this article of furniture in particular, he replied, "Such a pillow must be very desirable, upon which a man so deep in debt could sleep soundly."

51. He gave an admirable example how a person who sends a challenge ought to be treated. When Mark Antony, after the battle of Actium, sent him a challenge, his answer to the messenger who brought it, was, "Tell Mark Antony, if he be weary of life, there are other ways of despatch: I shall not therefore take the trouble to be his executioner."

52. A simple youth coming to Rome from the country, was observed to resemble Augustus so much, that it was the subject of general conversation. The emperor ordered him to appear at court, and inquired of him, if his mother had ever been in Rome? "No," answered the youth, "but my father has."

53. A Roman presented a petition to Augustus in a timid manner, and with a trembling hand. "This man," said Augustus, "behaves as if he was offering a piece of money to an elephant."

54. As Augustus was pleased with the company of Virgil and Horace, he invited them frequently to his table, and used to seat himself between the two poets. Virgil was asthmatic, and Horace had weak eyes. The emperor said jocosely, in allusion to his situation between these two invalids, "Here I am, between sighs and tears."

FRIAR BACON.

ROGER BACON, a Franciscan friar, was the bright star of philosophy that shone in the dark hemisphere of the thirteenth century. On account of his great proficiency in mathematics and chemistry, he was reputed a magician. He undertook the composition of gunpowder, the structure of the air pump, and of tele-

scopes. That he sometimes recreated himself by blending facetious pranks with his scientific pursuits, appears from the following anecdote, recorded by Antony Wood.

55. "Once upon a time, several scholars of Cambridge came to dispute with the scholars of Oxford, with fair promises to themselves of returning conquerors ; the which Friar Bacon hearing, feigned himself a thatcher, and when he was upon a house at Oxford's town's end, he, upon the approach of the Cantabrigians, came down to meet them, and drawing near to them, one of the Cantabs said to him, *Rustice, quid quæris?* Bacon, the thatcher, answered, *Ut mecum vercificeris.* Then quoth another of the Cambridge scholars, *Versificator tu?* Bacon answered, *Melior non solis ab ortu?* Whereupon the Cantabrigians, seeing that Oxford thatchers were so good versifiers, and being more afraid of the scholars themselves, returned to Cambridge *re infecta.*"

SIR NICHOLAS BACON.

56. QUEEN ELIZABETH made him lord chancellor and secretary of state. The queen, when she visited him at Hertford, said, "This house is too small for a man like you." "Madam," replied the chancellor, "it is your majesty's fault, for you have made me too large for my house."

57. He proved how well he could apply his politeness to making an apology. When he was newly made lord keeper, he was in Gray's-inn Walks with Sir Walter Raleigh : and a person came and told him that the earl of Exeter was above. He still continued to walk a good while. At last, when he came up, the earl of Exeter met him, and said, "My lord, I have made a great venture, to come up so high stairs, being a gouty man." The lord keeper answered, "Pardon me, my lord, I have made the greatest venture of all ; for I have ventured upon your patience."

LORD BACON.

IN his official conduct, as lord high chancellor, he was culpable rather for his misplaced confidence than his speculation. It is probable, that he allowed his officers to accept presents, but it is not clear that he ever took any himself. New evidence of his integrity has lately been furnished by the publication of the papers of John Aubrey, the Oxford antiquarian ; from them it appears that one of his servants acquired an estate of a thousand a year, and that others kept their coaches.

Lord Bacon was the great projector of a plan for conducting the researches of philosophy upon the most accurate, certain, and comprehensive principles. He proposed to substitute experiments for theories, and laid the foundation of a solid edifice of human knowledge, which rises in due proportion and regular order from earth to heaven. What a vast extent of investigation his comprehensive mind embraced, may be ascertained by the study of his three principal works, his *Advancement of Learning*, *De Augmentis Scientiarum*, and *Novum Organum*. Many proofs may be brought to show how well the mode he recommends has since succeeded, and how fruitful it has been in new discoveries. Newton applied it with wonderful success to the science of optics ; and the additions it has made to real knowledge in natural history, botany, mineralogy, chemistry, and geology, are sufficiently evinced by the works of Boyle, Buffon, Linnæus, Lavoisier, Fourcroy, De Lisle, Priestley, Black, and de Luc.

58. Lord Bacon was not hasty to raise theories, but proceeded slowly by experiments. He was wont to say to some philosophers who would not go his pace, " Gentlemen, nature is a labyrinth, in which the very haste you move with, will make you lose your way."

59. He selected the most apt illustrations, when he marked the distinctions between the various pursuits

of philosophers. He said, the empirical philosophers are like to pismires ; they lay up and use their store. The rationalists are like the spiders ; they spin all out of their own bowels. But give me a philosopher, who like the bee, hath a middle faculty, gathering from abroad, but digesting that which is gathered by his own virtue."

60. He gave early proofs of extraordinary talents. When he was a little boy, queen Elizabeth asked him, how old he was ? He replied, " Madam, I was two years old when you began your happy reign."

61. He was wont to say of a passionate man, who suppressed his anger, " that he thought worse than he spoke ; and he said of an angry man, who vented his passion in words, " That he spoke worse than he thought."

62. Queen Elizabeth being much enraged against Dr. Hayward, author of the Life of Henry the Fourth, had ordered her law officers to proceed against him, and, amongst others, inquired of Bacon, " If there was not treason in the book ?" The witty lawyer readily answered, " No, madam, I cannot answer for there being *treason* in it, but I am certain it contains much *felony*." " How !" eagerly exclaimed her majesty, " How and wherein ?" " In many passages," replied he, " which he has *stolen* from Tacitus."

63. At no time of life should a man give up the thoughts of enjoying the society of women. " In youth," says lord Bacon, " women are our mistresses, at a riper age our companions, in old age our nurses, and in all ages our friends."

64. He was asked by king James I. what he thought of Mr. Caderes, a very tall man who was sent on an embassy to the king of France. He said, " Very tall

men are like lofty houses, where the uppermost rooms are commonly the most meanly furnished."

65. Gondomar, the Spanish ambassador, called upon lord Bacon after his disgrace ; and, intending to taunt him in his misfortunes, said, " My lord, I wish you a merry Easter." " And to you, senor, replied lord Bacon. " I wish a good *passover* ;" reminding him of his Jewish descent ; which was the most cutting retort that could be made to a Spaniard.

BALTAGI MAHOMET.

66. THIS grand vizir, by his military stratagems, placed the czar Peter in the same situation on the banks of the Pruth, to which the czar had reduced Charles XII. at Pultowa. From this perilous crisis of his affairs, he was extricated by the admirable address of his wife Catharine, who found means to prevail upon the grand vizir to conclude a treaty of peace. When the treaty was signed, Charles XII. arrived, impatient for battle, exulting in the certainty of having his old enemy the czar in his power. The Swedish monarch being informed that the treaty had been just concluded, inflamed with disappointment and rage, flew to the tent of the grand vizir, and reproached him for what he had done. " I have the power," answered Baltagi, with a calm aspect, " to make either peace or war ; and our law commands us to grant peace to our enemies, when they implore our mercy." " Does it command you," replied Charles in an angry tone, " to make a weak and disadvantageous treaty, when you may impose what laws you please ? Had you not a fine opportunity to conduct the czar a prisoner to Constantinople ?" " And who then," retorted the vizir with sarcastic dryness, alluding to Charles having been so long absent from Sweden, " could govern his empire in his absence ? It is not fit that *all* sovereigns should leave their dominions."

FRANCIS BASSEMPIERRE,

67. A GENERAL of the Swiss guards in the service of Louis XIII. He indulged his wit at the expence of his liberty, for he was confined in the Bastile for his caustic speeches. He passed his time in prison in reading and writing. One day, as he was busily turning over the leaves of the Bible, a friend asked him, "What he was looking for?" A passage, said he, "which I cannot find." This passage was the way out of prison. When he was liberated, Louis XIII. asked him his age, and he reported himself to be no more than fifty. The king seeming surprised, "Sire," he answered, "I deduct ten years passed in the Bastile, because I did not employ them in your service."

How happily was this allusion to his confinement converted into an elegant compliment!

BAYLE.

68. His Critical Dictionary is an immense repository of facts and opinions. The power which he boldly exercised of assembling doubts and objections, tempted him jocosely to take the title of the "cloud-compelling Jove;" and in a conversation with the ingenious Abbe de Polignac, he freely disclosed his universal Pyrrhonism. "I am most truly," said Bayle, a *protestant*, for I protest indifferently against all systems, and all sects."

69. He pronounced one of the most severe strictures on the fair sex. He was asked if women could keep a secret. "There is one secret," said he, "and that is the only one they can keep,—their age."

70. "If Bayle," said Voltaire, "could have foreseen in how high esteem his Dictionary would be held, he would have made it more useful by omitting the lives of obscure men, and by inserting more of those that were eminent. Des Maiseaux has written the Life of

Bayle in a bulky volume, it ought not to have exceeded half a dozen pages. The life of a sedentary author is contained in his writings."

WHAT IS BEAUTY ?

How various, and even opposite, are the notions which the natives of different countries entertain of personal beauty ! Yet there can be no doubt that the expression of the soft emotions of benevolence, pity, and love, as shown in the female face, is pleasing to all the world. The different opinions of beauty entertained in various countries, relate to colour and to form ; and these opinions arise from national customs, or certain prejudices widely extended, which alter the natural taste. In China, the chief beauty of women is thought to consist in the smallness of their feet : as soon as girls are born, the nurses confine their feet with the tightest ligatures, to prevent their growth. The women of Arabia colour their eye-brows with a black powder, and draw a black line under their eyes, to make them appear more prominent and expressive.

71. In the time of the old Court, the faces of the Parisian ladies were spotted with patches, and plastered with rouge. Lord Chesterfield, when at Paris, was asked by Voltaire, if he did not think some French ladies then in company, whose cheeks were fashionably tinted, very beautiful. " Excuse me," said lord Chesterfield, " from giving an opinion—for I am no judge of *paintings*."

72. A well-looking Englishman, as he was travelling among the alps, attracted much notice ; but the natives thought his person deficient in one important point, which they flattered themselves was a *local* beauty. " How completely handsome," they said, " this Englishman would be, if he had, like us, a swelling under his throat !"

BIAS.

73. He was one of the seven wise men of Greece. When the city of Priene, his native place, was besieged, and every inhabitant hastened to carry away his most valuable effects, some one asked Bias, why he retired with empty hands. "I carry," said he, "all my property with me." By this speech he meant to imply, that virtue and knowledge, the riches of the mind, were the only things deserving the name of property.

ROBERT BIGOD, EARL OF NORFOLK.

74. WHEN Edward I. king of England, commanded several of his lords to go to the wars in France, they all made apologies to excuse themselves. They represented they were not obliged to go to war out of their own country, unless his majesty went in person ; in that case, they would attend him, but not otherwise. Whereupon the king, in a great rage, said to Robert Bigod, earl of Norfolk : "By God, sir earl, you shall either go, or hang." "By God, sir king," was the answer, "I will neither go nor hang." And so he went away without leave, assembled many noblemen and other friends, and stood in his own defence ; and the king, like a prudent prince, who knew his times, insisted no more upon that matter.

THE CALIPH BILLAH.

75. A SATIRIST had written some very bitter verses reflecting upon the conduct of the grand vizir of Billah, the second caliph of the race of the Fatamites in Egypt ; and he had the audacity to apply the lash of his censure even to the caliph himself. The vizir in a great rage complained to his master, and demanded the instant and rigorous punishment of the satirist.

The caliph read the verses with great composure, and said, "Abate your resentment, pardon the culprit ; and as I share the injury with you, it is my desire that you share with me the merit of my forgiveness."

BOILEAU THE POET.

76. A MAN of plain good sense, but totally unacquainted with literature, said once in the presence of Boileau, that he had rather be able to make a wig than to make a poem ; adding, "What is the use of poetry, and what end does it answer ?" "This very circumstance," replied Boileau, "raises my admiration of poetry, that having nothing useful in it, it is nevertheless the delight of all men."

77. He used to say that the best epigrams originated in conversation ; and of all his own he gave the preference to the following :

*Ci gît ma femme, ah qu'elle est bien
Pour son repos, et pour le mien !*

"Here lies my wife, and heaven knows,
Not less for mine, than her repose !"

78. When he had published a new work, and his friends came and told him that the critics spoke very severely of it : "So much the better," said he, "for they never speak at all of bad works."

79. "What is the reason," asked a friend, "that you are so very punctual in keeping your dinner engagements ?" "I am so," said Boileau, "by way of prevention. The time persons wait for you at dinner is generally employed either in enlarging upon the faults you have, or imputing to you those you have not."

80. Boileau was one day visited by a nobleman, a great loungeur, who reproached him with not having returned his first visit. "You, and I," said Boileau,

"meet upon unequal terms. I lose my time when I pay a visit, you only get rid of yours when you do so." Yet when Menage called upon him one day, and on finding him at his studies, begged his pardon for interrupting him, Boileau replied, "Sir, one man of letters can never interrupt another."

THE ABBE BOILEAU.

81. THE great Condé, on entering the city of Sens, was complimented with an oration by the abbé Boileau, brother to the poet, then dean of the cathedral, attended by the clergy. The great Condé leaned forward, as if to hear the orator more distinctly, but in fact it was his intention to put him out of countenance. The abbé aware of his design, pretended to be greatly agitated, and began his speech with evident embarrassment. "Your highness," said he, "must not be surprised to see me so nervous and so much agitated on appearing before you, at the head of these inoffensive ecclesiastics, for if I was now facing you at the head of a large army, I should tremble much more than I do." The prince was so much pleased with the abbé for his address, that he invited him to dinner.

QUEEN ANNE BOLEYN.

82. As queen Anne, wife of Henry VIII. and mother of queen Elizabeth, was going to be beheaded in the Tower, seeing a gentleman there of the king's privy chamber, she called him to her, and with a cheerful countenance, and a soul undaunted at approaching death, said to him, "Remember me to the king, and tell him he is constant in advancing me to the greatest honours. From a private gentlewoman he made me a marchioness; from that degree made me a queen; and now, because he can raise me no higher in this world, he is translating me to heaven, to wear a crown of martyrdom in eternal glory."

BISHOP BONNER.

83. HENRY VIII. having quarrelled with Francis I., resolved to send an ambassador to deliver a message to the French monarch in the most menacing terms, and appointed bishop Bonner to execute the commission. The bishop told the king, that his embassy would cost him his life. "Should Francis," said the enraged Henry, "dare to make such a sacrifice of you, my representative, I will instantly cut off the heads of all the Frenchmen in my dominions." "So you may, sir," replied the bishop; "but I fear that there is not one of them that will fit my shoulders."

BOSSUET.

HE was bishop of Meaux, preceptor to the Dauphin, the son of Louis XIV. Pious, eloquent, and sublime, he wrote many excellent works; but his Funeral Orations, and his Discourse on Universal History, are the main pillars of his literary fame.

84. Louis XIV. used to consult him upon various occasions. One day the king said, as he entered his apartment, "We are talking of dramatic entertainments: what is your opinion of them?" "Sire," said he, "there are great precedents in their favour, but invincible objections against them."

85. Whenever he had a funeral sermon to compose, he read Homer in the original Greek. This study raised his style to the due elevation of the subject. "I light my lamp," said he, "with the rays of the sun."

THE DUKE OF BOURBON.

86. THE duke of Bourbon, general of the army of Charles V., received his death wound in the assault of the city of Rome. Some of the soldiers, passing

near the place where he was stretched upon the ground nearly expiring, asked each other if it was true that the duke was dead. He hearing their inquiries, and wishing not to discourage them, exclaimed, "Bourbon is gone forward!"

TOM BROWN.

87. TOM BROWN, having once asked a man how he contrived to live in these hard times, was answered, "I live, as I believe you do, master Brown, by my wits:" "Faith," replied Brown, "you must be a much more able trader than I ever thought you, to carry on business and thrive upon so small a capital."

LE BRUN.

88. HE possessed in a great degree, that warm imagination and enthusiasm which stimulate the efforts and increase the raptures of an artist. Some one said in his presence, of his well-known picture of the Magdalen, That the contrite beautiful penitent was really weeping. "That," said he, "is all perhaps that you can perceive: I hear her sigh."

BUCHANAN.

89. "THE famous poet Buchanan, in his travels, was taken hold of by some of the pope's inquisitors, who by his free writing suspected his religion; but he, to acquit himself, wrote unto his holiness this distichon:

*Laus tua, non tua fraus, virtus non copia rerum,
Scandere te fecit hoc decus eximium.*

For which encomium he was set at liberty; and being gone out of the pope's jurisdiction, he sent to his holiness, and desired according to his own true meaning, to

read the self-same verses backward, which were these :

*Eximium decus hoc fecit te scandere rerum
Copia non virtus, fraus tua, non tua laus."*

BUDÆUS.

HE was esteemed one of the most learned men in France in the sixteenth century. He was a man of family and fortune ; by a singular transition of pursuits, from a gamester and a sportsman he became a hard student and a prolific author. His progress in the learned languages was astonishingly rapid ; although, as he said of himself, he was both self-taught and late taught, yet his works prove the soundness of his erudition. His application was intense ; his book was the magnet that attracted all his faculties.

90. He was engaged in deep study in his library, when a servant came running to him in a great fright, to tell him the house was on fire. "Go," said he, with perfect calmness, and hardly raising his eyes from his book, "and inform your mistress ; 'tis her concern, you know I never interfere in domestic matters."

91. Francis the First took great delight in his company, gave him a pension, and appointed him master of the requests, a considerable office in the parliament of Paris. Budæus accompanied Francis the First in his splendid interview with Henry VIII., near Ardres. Francis asked him one day, "Suppose all books were ordered to be burnt, whose works would you wish to save from the flames ?" "The works of Plutarch," he replied ; "for they contain the elements of every thing that is known."

EDMUND BURKE.

92. DR. JOHNSON said of him, "That you could not stand five minutes with him beneath a shed while it rained, but you must be convinced you had been talking with the greatest man you had ever seen."

93. Dr. Robertson observed, That Johnson's jokes were the rebukes of the righteous, described in scripture as being like excellent oil. "Yes," exclaimed Burke, "oil of vitriol!"

94. As he was declaiming with great animation against Hastings, he was interrupted by little Major Scott. "Am I," said he indignantly, "to be teased by the barking of this jackal, while I am attacking the royal tiger of Bengal?"

95. When he made his famous motion in the house of commons for the impeachment of Mr. Hastings, he adverted to the tyrannical and cruel measures exercised by several of the governors of India; and said, "They not only made a monopoly of rice, which brought on a famine in Hindostan, but deprived the the wretched natives of the very opium which would have enabled them to forget both their oppressions and their oppressors."

96. In speaking against Lord North, he quoted the Latin adage, *Magnum vectigal est parsimonia*, and made a false quantity. Lord North corrected him. Mr. Burke congratulated the house of commons on the progress the noble lord was making in knowledge, and said, "There was now some hope of his proceeding from *sound* to *sense*."

97. There never was a stronger contrast between two candidates upon the hustings than between Mr. Burke and Mr. Cruger, at a Bristol election. The

former tired his hearers with his prolix harangues : the only speech the latter made, if speech it could be called, was, "I say ditto to Mr. Burke, I say ditto to Mr. Burke "

98. *Burke's Character of Howard.*

"His plan," said Burke, "is original ; and it is as full of genius, as it is of humanity. He has visited all Europe, not to survey the sumptuousness of palaces, or the stateliness of temples ; not to make accurate measurements of ancient grandeur, nor to form a scale of the curiosities of modern art ; not to collect medals, or to collate manuscripts ; but to dive into the depth of dungeons, to plunge into the infection of hospitals, to survey the mansions of sorrow and pain ; to take the gauge and dimensions of misery, depression and contempt ; to remember the forgotten, to attend to the neglected, to visit the forsaken, and to compare and collate the distresses of all men in all countries."

BISHOP BURNET.

HE is an entertaining, though a prolix historian. He was a man of inflexible principles ; for he refused the see of Chichester, offered him by Charles II., whose politics he disapproved, but accepted that of Salisbury from William III., and declared for the toleration of the non-conformists.

99. He was extravagantly fond of tobacco and writing : to enjoy both at the same time, he perforated the broad brim of his large hat, and putting his long pipe through it, puffed and wrote, and wrote and puffed again. He was a remarkably absent man in company. He earnestly entreated the great John duke of Marlborough to allow him to meet prince Eugene at his table. "Bishop," said the duke, "you know how forgetful you are, will you be accurate ?" "Your grace may depend upon my caution." Prince Eugene observing the bishop at table, inquired of him, whether he was

ever at Paris? "Yes, and please your highness," said the bishop, "I was there in the very same year the princess de Soissons was taken up on suspicion of poisoning her husband." Now it happened that this lady was the mother of prince Eugene! The bishop, recollecting himself when too late, retired covered with confusion; and it is superfluous to add, that neither the duke nor prince Eugene was anxious to recall him.

100. Dining one day with Sarah duchess of Marlborough, a lady not distinguished by the complacency of her temper, soon after the duke's disgrace, the bishop compared this great general to Belisarius. "But," said the duchess, "how came it to pass, that such a man became at the close of life so miserable, and so universally deserted?" "I will tell you, madam," said the bishop; "it was because he had such a termagant for his wife!"

JULIUS CÆSAR.

101. HE was remarkable for presence of mind. When he made an expedition into Africa, as he was going on shore his foot slipped, and he fell down. This fall might have been looked upon by his soldiers as a bad omen; so to make them suppose it a good one, he spread out his arms, and embraced the earth, saying, "O Africa! thus I hold thee fast."

102. A soldier boasted to Julius Cæsar of the many wounds he had received in his face. Cæsar, knowing him to be a coward, said to him, "The next time you run away, you had better take care how you look behind you."

R. O. CAMBRIDGE.

103. THE following translation of a passage in Boileau, was made by Mr. R. O. Cambridge, in the 85th year of his age. Its application to the ambitious ruler

of France, did great credit to the judgment of the veteran poet.

Thus of Pyrrhus inquir'd his old tutor and friend ;
These elephants, soldiers, and ships, to what end ?

Pyr. To a siege, for I've oft been invited to come,
And with glory to conquer all-conquering Rome.

Tut. I agree, that great glory from thence would ensue,
And 'tis worthy alone Alexander, or you.
After such an exploit there's no more to be done.

Pyr. Yes...the countries that border on Rome must be won.

Tut. Any more ? *Pyr.* Don't you see Syracuse is so near ?

Tut. Any more ? *Pyr.* Give me that, and to Carthage I steer.

Tut. Now I see your'e resolv'd to be master of all,
The near and the distant, the great and the small ;
And I plainly perceive you will not be at rest,
Till you've tir'd all the East, when you've conquer'd
the West.

So Egypt is yours ; your ambition then ranges,
And bears you away to the Tigris, and Ganges ;
But when crown'd with success, and with glory you
tire us,

What's left to be done when return'd to Epirus ?

Pyr. Why to feast on good cheer, and good liquor to quaff,
And forgetting our labours, to sit down and laugh.

Tut. Then why should we travel to Egypt or Rome ?
Who forbids us to laugh without stirring from home ?

LORD CAMPDEN.

104. HE expressed himself in an unusual strain of eloquence upon the subject of literary property. "Glo-ry," said he, "is the reward of science ; and those who deserve it, scorn all meaner views. It was not for gain that Bacon, Newton, Milton, and Locke, instructed and delighted the world. When the bookseller offered Milton five pounds for his *Paradise Lost*, he did not reject it, and commit his poem to the flames ; nor did he accept the miserable pittance as the reward of his labour ; he knew, that the real price of his *work* was *immortality*, and that *posterity* would pay it."

ARTHUR LORD CAPEL.

105. LORD CLARENDON said of him, "He was a man that whoever shall after him deserve best of the English nation, he can never think himself undervalued, when he shall hear that his courage, virtue, and fidelity, are laid in the balance with, and compared to, that of the lord Capel."

106. One of Lord Capel's sayings was, "Sharp and bitter jests are blunted more by neglecting than by responding, except they be suddenly and wittily retorted; but it is no imputation to a man's wisdom to use a *silent scorn*."

CARISSIMI.

107. CARISSIMI, a famous composer of music, being praised for the ease and grace of his melodies, used to exclaim, *Ah, questo facile quanto e difficile!* "Ah, with what difficulty is this ease acquired!"

CARNEADES.

108. THIS philosopher said, "Princes learn nothing well but riding; for their tutors flatter them, and those who contend with them in games suffer themselves to be beaten; but a horse knows not whether a prince or a peasant be on his back, and if his rider cannot rule him, he throws him without ceremony."

ANNIBAL CARRACHI.

109. IN a company where Annibal Carrachi was present, great praises were bestowed upon the groupe of the Laocoon, one of the finest remaining specimens of ancient sculpture; but this great painter said not a word upon the subject. As all the company expressed their astonishment at his silence, he took up a pencil

and sketched the outlines of the Laocoon with such accuracy, as if the statue had been before his eyes, and thus gave it the highest proof of his approbation. "Poets," said he, "paint with words, and painters speak with the pencil."

110. Annibal Carrachi censured the pictures of Josephin, a rival artist, who, desirous to be revenged upon the critic, challenged him to fight with swords. Annibal took a painting-brush, and showing it to the incensed Josephin, said with coolness, "I challenge you to fight with this weapon, and with this I mean to conquer you."

MR. JOHN CARTER.

111. MR. JOHN CARTER, the incumbent of Bramford in Suffolk, who had a great share of learning and no less modesty to conceal it, dining among others of the clergy at an alderman's house in Ipswich, one of the company boasted of his own extraordinary genius and knowledge, and defied any one present to start a question in theology or philosophy, to which he could not give a ready and a satisfactory answer. All present were silent for a time ; and when Mr. Carter saw that no one else would accept this arrogant challenge, he said "My plate furnishes me with a question to pose you. Here is a fish that has always lived in salt water ; pray tell me why he should come out a fresh fish, and not a salt one ?" This short question put the impertinent babbler to silence, and he was exposed to the derision of all the company.

RENE DES CARTES.

112. He was a gentleman by birth, a soldier by profession, and a philosopher, as far as the exercise of a fertile imagination could make one. His health was delicate, and he took care of it, without making himself a slave to precautions. He said, "Supposing I de-

ceive myself, and have not found out a method to preserve human life ; I have made a discovery which is highly valuable, and that is, to live free from the constant fear of death."

He told sir Kenelm Digby, that he was convinced the life of man could, by proper methods, be lengthened to the age of the patriarchs. It was, however, a bad comment on his own text, that he did not live beyond fifty-four years.

113. Although it was the study of his life to enlighten mankind, he could not escape the shafts of malevolence. "When any one does me an injury," said he, "I endeavour to elevate my soul so high, that his malice cannot reach me."

114. The logic of the schoolmen appearing so encumbered with rules, that were either useless or dangerous, he employed himself in separating the good parts from the bad. "I am," said he, "like the sculptor, who labours to form a Minerva out of a shapeless block of marble."

115. A *petit-maitre* one day seeing Des Cartes at a feast, said, "Do philosophers regale themselves with dainties ?" "Why not ?" said Des Cartes ; "do you suppose that nature has provided all good things for none but fops ?"

CATULUS.

116. ALLUSIONS to proper names, for the sake of a joke or sarcasm, were often made by speakers at the ancient Roman bar ; but they sometimes failed in their effect, and subjected the assailant to a severe retort. An orator, whose integrity was of a very doubtful nature, alluding to the name of Catulus, and the loud tone in which he pleaded against him, asked him why he *yelped* so much. "It is," said Catulus, "because I see a *thief*."

117. Those barristers of modern times, who have taken similar liberties with proper names, have not been more successful.

Dr. Vansittart was retained in a cause against sergeant Bearcroft. The latter said, "As the frequent repetition of long names may be tiresome to the court, I shall beg leave to call my learned friend opposed to me, Mr. Van," "I have not the least objection," said Vansittart, "and shall beg leave to return the compliment, by addressing you with the appropriate abbreviation of Mr. Bear."

118. An indifferent pleader asked Catulus, "Have I not succeeded in making a very *moving* speech?" "Certainly," said he, "for some of your audience pitied you, and the rest walked out of court."

MICHAEL CERVANTES SAAVEDRA.

119. He gave a proof that his generosity was equal to his genius. He was, in the early part of his life, for some time a slave in Algiers, and there he concerted a plan to free himself and thirteen fellow-sufferers. One of them traitorously betrayed the design, and they were all conveyed to the dey of Algiers; and he promised them their lives on condition they discovered the contriver of the plot. 'I was that person,' exclaimed the intrepid Cervantes; 'save my companions, and let me perish.' The dey, struck with his noble confession, spared his life, allowed him to be ransomed, and permitted him to depart home.

This writer of an incomparable romance, replete with character, incident, pleasantry, and humour, without any alloy of vulgarity, obscenity, or irreligion, which is held in admiration throughout the civilized world, starved in the midst of a high reputation, and died in penury!

120. As Philip III., king of Spain, was standing in a balcony of his palace at Madrid, and viewing the

prospects of the surrounding country, he observed a student on the banks of the river Manzanares, reading a book, and from time to time breaking off, and beating his forehead with extraordinary tokens of pleasure and delight; upon which the king said to those about him, "That scholar is either mad, or he is reading Don Quixote."

This anecdote is worth a volume of panegyric.

The history of Don Quixote did not wait for the tardy fame of remote ages. It was universally read, and universally admired, as soon as published; and the most eminent painters, engravers, and sculptors, vied with each other in representing the story of the knight of La Mancha; yet the author had not interest enough to obtain even the smallest pension from the court. Friendless and indigent, however, as Cervantes was, he retained his incomparable humour and facetiousness to the end of his life.

How happens it, that although the manners, customs, proverbs, and allusions in Don Quixote are so strictly Spanish, yet it is such a general favourite with readers of all nations? The answer seems to be, that the delineation of the characters, and the lively humour and burlesque, are so conformable to nature, that the subject is rendered, by the power of genius, universally interesting and pleasant.

Every anecdote of such a genius as Cervantes, however trifling in itself, cannot be so to his admirers.

121. M. de Boulay attended the French ambassador to Spain, while Cervantes was yet alive. He said, that the ambassador one day complimented Cervantes on the reputation he had acquired by his Don Quixote, and that Cervantes whispered in his ear, 'Had it not been for the Inquisition, I should have made my book much more entertaining.'

MRS. CHAPONE.

122. MRS. CHAPONE was asked the reason why she always came so early to church. "Because," said

she, 'it is part of my religion never to disturb the religion of others.'

CHARLES V.,

The most potent and widely-ruling sovereign of his age, for he was king of Spain, Naples, Sicily, and Sardinia, emperor of Germany, and governor of the Low Countries.

He was of a cool and cautious temper, deliberate in his plans, and prompt in execution. This disposition gave him a decided advantage over the warmth and impetuosity of his more amiable rival Francis I., whom he took prisoner at the battle of Pavia.

Great in the possession of so much power, he shewed himself still greater by surrendering it. He resigned his crown to his son Philip II., retired to a monastery in Estremadura upon a pension, and lived the austere life of a monk. Wishing effectually to wean himself from the world, he celebrated his own obsequies with the solemnities of a real funeral; but the awfulness of the ceremony made so strong an impression upon his mind, that he died a few days after he performed it.

123. A courtier very officiously offered to inform Charles V. where one of the most considerable of the Spanish insurgents in favour of Francis I. was to be found. Charles, wishing by his clemency to conciliate the minds of the Spaniards, rather than to exasperate them by severity, said, "You had better let him know I am here, than tell me where he is."

124. The celebrated Titian, the chief painter of the Venetian school, told Charles V. that he had the honour to paint his portrait for the third time. "You mean," said Charles, "that you give me immortality for the third time."

125. He was master of several living languages. He said, he would speak Italian to the pope, Spanish

to his mother queen Jane, English to queen Catharine his aunt, Flemish to his friends, and French when he talked to himself.

126. Henry II. gained many advantages over Charles V. in the advanced period of his life. Charles consoled himself by saying, upon such occasions, "Fortune is like a woman, she prefers young men to old."

127. When Charles V. resigned the crown of Spain in favour of Philip II., "My son," said he, "I perform an action to-day, of which antiquity furnishes few precedents, and posterity will give few imitations."

128. He one day observed very shrewdly to an ambassador of Henry VIII. king of England, "Your master would not give himself the airs he does, were it not that his dominions are surrounded by a *herring pond*."

CHARLES VIII. OF FRANCE.

129. SOME of his courtiers advised him to demolish the tomb of the great John duke of Bedford, the regent in the minority of Henry VI., who had gained so many victories in France. "Let us leave," said Charles, "this hero to remain in peace now he is dead, who, when he was alive, made all Frenchmen tremble."

CHARLES XII. OF SWEDEN.

130. HE carried all the virtues of a hero to excess, so as to make them as culpable as the opposite vices. By his contempt of danger, and his ardent pursuit of glory, he cannot fail to command the admiration of mankind. When his horse was killed under him, at the battle of Narva, he leaped nimbly upon a fresh one, saying jocosely, "These people will keep me in exercise."

131. As he was dictating a letter to his secretary, a bomb fell through the roof into the next room in the house where they were sitting. The terrified secretary let the pen drop from his hand. "What is the matter?" said Charles calmly. The secretary replied, "Ah, sir, the bomb!" "But what has the bomb to do," said Charles, "with what I am dictating to you?—go on."

132. A peasant threw himself at his feet, with a complaint against one of his grenadiers, that had robbed him and his family of their dinner. 'Is it true,' said Charles sternly to the grenadier, 'that you have robbed this man?' The soldier replied, 'Sir, I have not done so much harm to this man, as your majesty has done to his master; for you have taken from Augustus a kingdom, but I have only taken from this peasant a dinner.' Charles made the peasant amends; and he pardoned the grenadier for his bold remonstrance, saying, 'My friend, you will do well to recollect, that if I took Poland from Augustus, I did not take it for myself.'

133. Although his temper was severe, the following anecdote will prove that he was a generous enemy.—He took the fort of Dunamond after a smart siege, as the governor, colonel Canitz, held it out against him for some time. Charles was so well pleased with his determined conduct, that, as he marched out of the fort, he said to him, 'You are my enemy, and yet I love you as well as my best friends; for you have behaved yourself like a brave soldier in defence of this fort against my troops: and to show you that I can esteem and reward valour even in mine enemies, I make you a present of these five thousand ducats.'

134. He once went early in the morning to consult his prime minister. He was in bed, and Charles was obliged to wait till he rose. Charles

passed the time in talking with a soldier, whom he found in the ante-chamber. At last the minister appeared, and made many apologies. The soldier, extremely confused for having accosted his sovereign with so much freedom, threw himself at his feet, and said, 'Sire, forgive me, for I really took you for a man.' 'You have done no harm, friend,' said the king; 'your mistake was natural; for nothing is, I assure you, so much like a man, as a king.'

135. One of his old officers, who was suspected of avarice, complained to him, that he conferred all his favours upon Grothusen. 'I give my money,' said he pointedly, 'to those only who know how to make a good use of it.'

CHATEANEUF.

136. He was a keeper of the seals in the minority of Louis XIII. At the age of nine, he was introduced to a French bishop, who said he would give him an orange, if he would tell him where God is. 'My Lord,' replied the boy, 'I will give you two, if you will tell me where he is *not*.'

THE GREAT LORD CHATHAM.

137. His eloquence was of every kind, tranquil, vehement, argumentative, or moralising, as best suited the occasion. In 1764, he maintained the illegality of general warrants with great energy in the house of commons. 'By the British constitution,' said he, 'every man's house is his castle; not that is surrounded with walls and battlements, for it may be a straw-built shed. Every wind of heaven may blow around it all the elements of nature may enter in; but the king cannot, the king dares not.'

LORD CHESTERFIELD.

138. IF he was the author of the *Economy of Human Life*, he made the world some reparation for the laxity of his moral and religious principles, discoverable in his *Letters to his son*. Dr. Johnson said, 'that although he might be a wit among lords, he was only a lord among wits.' That he deserved a higher character for his powers of repartee, the following instances, among many others, are sufficient to prove.

139. Lord Chesterfield complained very much at an inn where he dined, that the plates and dishes were very dirty. The waiter, with a degree of pertness, observed, that every one must eat a peck of dirt before he dies. 'That may be true,' said lord Chesterfield; 'but no one is obliged to eat it all at a meal.'

140. 'I cannot conceive,' said a nobleman to lord Chesterfield, 'how you manage your affairs; for though your estate is smaller than mine, you make a much more splendid figure than I do.' 'My lord,' said Chesterfield, 'I have a place.' 'Pray what place?' 'I am my own steward.'

141. On the 1st of July it was the custom for the Protestants in Ireland to appear at the court of the lord lieutenant with orange-coloured ribbons, in commemoration of the battle of the Boyne gained by king William III. When the earl of Chesterfield was lord lieutenant, he observed miss Ambrose, a papist, a very beautiful girl, wearing one of those ribbons. The instant it caught his eye, he walked up to her, and addressed her in the following lines :

'Say lovely Tory, what's the jest,
Of wearing *orange* on your breast?
Since that same breast betraying shows
The whiteness of the rebel *rose*?

142. Dryden's translation of Virgil being commended by a reverend prelate, lord Chesterfield observed, "The original is excellent, but every thing suffers by a translation, except a bishop."

143. The late queen hinted to lord Chesterfield her design of shutting up St. James' Park, and turning it into a garden, and asked him what he thought the alteration would cost. His reply was, "only three crowns!"

THE ABBE CHOISY,

THOSE who have travelled into far distant countries are often listened to with peculiar suspicion; but it does not follow, that they violate truth, and propagate fiction, because their narratives differ from our experience, or that our customs and language are the just criteria of all others.

144. The abbè Choisy, when he returned from Siam, where he had attended the chevalier de Chaumont, ambassador from Louis XIV., was teased with numberless questions by the courtiers as to what he had seen in so remote a country. The king interrogated him much, and asked him what they called *to eat* in the Siam language. The abbè said, that the Siam word was *kin*. A quarter of an hour after, the king asked the abbè what was the Siam word *to drink*, and the abbè again said, *kin*. "I thought," said the king, "you just now told me that word signified *to eat*." "So I did, sir," said the abbè without hesitation. "*Kin kaou* means to drink wine, and *kin nam* to drink water." "The abbè is a man of ready invention," said the king, smiling, "and is very adroit in coining a language."

A learned man, who understood the Siam language well, has asserted, that the abbè de Choisy was not at all indebted to his invention, but spoke from his real knowledge.

MR. CHURCHILL.

145. The abbé Raynall came with some other Frenchmen to visit Horace Walpole, at Strawberry Hill. They were standing at a window looking at the prospect of the Thames, which they found flat: and one of them said in French, not thinking they were overheard, "Every thing in England only serves to recommend France to us the more." Mr. Churchill instantly said, "Gentlemen, when the Cherokees were in this country, they could eat nothing but train oil."

CHURCHILL THE POET.

146. ONE person abusing another, in the company of Churchill the poet, said, he was so extremely stupid, that if you said a good thing he could not understand it. "Pray, sir," said Churchill, "did you ever try him?"

CHRISTINA QUEEN OF SWEDEN.

SHE was the daughter of the great Gustavus Adolphus, and inherited, with his dominions, much of the vigour of his character; yet she wanted tenderness and sensibility to soften the sternness of her virtues, so that she was respected rather than beloved.

She exemplified the *varium et mutabile* attributed by Virgil to her sex. Fickle in all things, except her love of learning and scholars, she was always changing place, and no where content to reside. The most remarkable instance of her fickleness was, that after she had resigned the crown of Sweden, she intrigued for that of Poland.

147. During her reign, she had the glory to establish peace in her kingdom. As she was single, her nobles pressed her to marry, but she put a stop to their importunities, by saying, "I had much rather nominate a good king as my successor, who is capable of holding with glory the reins of government. Do not

therefore compel me to marry ; for was I to have a son, I might be just as likely to have a Nero as an Augustus."

148. She resigned the crown of sweden, embraced the popish religion, and publicly abjured the Lutheran faith at Inspruck. The same evening a comedy was acted. This occasioned the protestants, who did not approve of her change of religion, or did not think it sincere, to say, " It is but justice, that the papists should give Christina a *comedy* in the evening, in return for her *farce* in the morning."

CICERO.

THIS greatest of all Roman orators who by the powers of his eloquence confounded the traitor Cataline, and made Julius Cæsar tremble even when invested with the sovereign command of Rome, was remarkable for sallies of facetiousness and felicity of retort.

149. Cicero was of low origin, and the mother of Metellus was a woman of a licentious character. Metellus said to Cicero, " Dare you tell your father's name ?" Cicero answered, " Can your mother tell yours ?"

150. Cicero saw Lentulus his son-in-law, a man of very low stature, with a very long sword by his side. He called out, " Who has tied my son-in-law to that sword ?"

151. The Sphinx, it may be recollected, was supposed by the antients to have been the interpreter of riddles. Hortensius, the great Roman pleader, had a present made him of a curious and valuable figure of the Sphinx as a bribe, by Verres, who was tried for his bad government of Scicily. Hortensius, pleading for Verres against Cicero, said, " Your allusions are so obscure, that I want some one to explain your

riddles." "You cannot be at a loss on that account," replied Cicero, "as you have the Sphinx at your house."

152. When Metellus said, that Cicero had killed more persons as a witness, than he had saved as a pleader ; Cicero answered, " True, for my honesty is greater than my eloquence."

153. Cicero said of Caninius Revilus, who continued consul only for one day, " We have had a consul of such great vigilance, that he has not slept a single night during the whole time he has been in office."

154. After the battle of Pharsalia, in which Pompey was defeated, one of his generals said to Cicero, " We need not despair, as we have the eagles of several legions still remaining." " This would be an advantage," replied Cicero, " if we were fighting with crows."

155. Fabia Dolabella said she was thirty years of age. " This must be true," said Cicero ; " for I have heard her say so many times in the course of the last twenty years."

156. Did the author of the following lines catch the idea from Cicero, or was it original ?

Verses on a celebrated Cambridge Beauty, Miss Molly Fowle, by the Rev. Hans de Veil.

" Is Molly Fowle immortal ? No.
Yes, but she is ; I'll prove her so.
Sh'es fifteen now, and was, I know,
Fifteen, full fifteen years ago."

ANN CLIFFORD, COUNTESS OF PEMBROKE.

157. SHE showed her high spirit and even her con-

tempt for Oliver Cromwell, when he was in the plenitude of his power. She found herself under the necessity of recovering some of her property by a lawsuit. Cromwell offered his mediation ; but she answered loftily, she would never accept it, whilst there was any law to be found in England. "What!" said she, "does he imagine that I, who refused to submit to king James, will yield to him?"

158. Her dislike to Cromwell was not founded on party, but on principle. She had the same dislike to Charles II., when she became acquainted with the spirit of his government. On being pressed by her friends, some time after the Restoration, to go to court : "By no means," said she, "unless I may be allowed to wear blinkers."

159. She was the most heroic, noble, generous, economical, virtuous, and discreet lady of her age. Bishop Rainbow summed up her character with respect to her prudence and discretion, by calling her "A perfect mistress of *forecast* and *aftercast*."

DR. CLARKE.

160. HUME said, that Butler's Analogy was the best defence of Christianity he had ever seen. Queen Caroline is said to have read some part of this profound work every day at breakfast. She asked Dr. Clarke what he knew of Butler. Dr. Clarke told her he was residing with his family upon a small living in Kent. The queen expressed her surprise, and said she thought he was dead. 'No, madam,' said Dr. Clarke, 'he is not dead, but he is *buried*.'

MR. CLIFTON.

161. KING JAMES said to Mr. Clifton one day, 'I do not know how it is, but I never knew a modest man make his way at court.' 'Please your majesty,' asked Mr. Clifton, 'whose fault is that?'

COLLINS.

162. THIS sweet poet was much attached to a young lady, who was born the day before him, and who did not return his passion. 'Yours is a hard case,' said a friend. 'It is so, indeed,' said Collins, 'for I came into the world *a day after the fair.*'

THE PRINCE OF CONDE.

163. AN officious friend showed the prince of Condé some libels written against him, in which he was described as acting and speaking things that were false, 'These rascals,' said he, 'make me talk and act as they would do if they were in my place.'

CAPTAIN JAMES COOK.

164. HE married a young lady to whom he had been guardian. Preparing soon after for one of his voyages, he said, on taking leave of his friends, 'The spring of my life was stormy, the summer has been laborious; but I leave in my native country a fund of happiness to enrich the autumn and cheer the winter of my days.' Little did this adventurous navigator think, when he expressed himself in this beautiful manner, that death would suddenly arrest his progress at the extremity of the globe, and frustrate the fondest hopes of his heart!

ANTHONY ASHLEY COOPER.

165. WHEN Mr. Anthony Ashley Cooper was member for Pool in Dorsetshire, he gave a very singular instance of his humanity and integrity. Before the revolution, and for some time after, prisoners accused of high treason were not permitted to be heard by counsel, unless a special matter of law was stated to the court. A bill was at length presented to the house

of commons, to abolish this prohibition ; and, notwithstanding the equity of such an intended law, it met with great opposition.

When the bill was brought into the house, Mr. Cooper had prepared a speech in support of it ; but when he stood up to read it, he was so agitated, that he was unable to proceed. The speaker observing his confusion, recommended him to take time, and not be discouraged ; upon which encouragement Mr. Cooper recovered himself, and spoke as follows :—

Mr. Speaker—‘ If I, who rise only to give my opinion upon the bill now depending, am so confounded that I am unable to express the least part of what I proposed to say, what must be the condition of that man, who, without any assistance whatever, is obliged to plead for his life, whilst under the dreadful apprehensions of being deprived of it ?’

This emphatic speech had such an effect upon the house, that the bill passed without opposition.

On the death of his father he became earl of Shaftesbury. His work entitled ‘ Characteristics’ has acquired for him the reputation of a philosopher. Therein he argues to inculcate these two principles ; that Divine Providence administers all affairs for universal good ; and that man is made by that Providence a social animal, who can only find his proper end in the pursuit of moral virtue.

Thus he echoes the tenets of the Socratic school ; but certainly he does not convey them in the manner either of Xenophon or Plato ; for his style is so perplexed and verbose, as to throw a veil of obscurity over his ideas.

PETER CORNEILLE.

HE was the father of the French drama. In the force by which he is impelled, and the fire by which he is

animated when he describes the passions, he is more like Shakspeare, than any of the French dramatists. He is rarely pathetic, but often sublime. The best edition of his works is enriched with the notes of Voltaire.

166. When a friend informed him that the critics threatened to publish some very severe remarks on his tragedy of Horatius, he said, alluding to the trial of that hero, 'I am very little alarmed at their menace; for you may recollect, that although Horatius was condemned by the decemviri, he was acquitted by the people.'

FERNANDO CORTEZ.

167. A SPANIARD of good family. He subdued the kingdom of Mexico, but not without exercising great cruelties against the sovereign and people of that country. When he returned to Spain, he was coolly received by the emperor, Charles V. One day he suddenly presented himself to that monarch. 'Who are you?' said the emperor, haughtily. 'The man,' said Cortez, as haughtily, 'who has given you more provinces than your ancestors left you cities.'

COTON.

168. HENRY IV. of France asked the jesuit Coton, 'Would you discover to me the confession of a man who told you he was determined to assassinate me?' 'No, I could not,' said Coton, 'neither in honour, nor conscience; but I would prevent his malice, by placing myself between him and you.'

LORD CHANCELLOR COWPER.

169. HENRIETTA Lady Luxborough remarked, 'I remember once to have heard lord chancellor Cowper

say, 'If every body knew as much of the law as I do, they would (were the cause ever so good) give up half, rather than embark in our courts.'"

CREBILLON.

170. A FRIEND asked him why he had introduced so much of the terrific into his tragedies. 'I had no alternative,' said he: 'Corneille has taken the heavens, Racine the earth, and I had nothing left me but the infernal regions.'

171. In retirement he formed the subjects of his plays, and composed them without writing them down, till he had completed all the parts. One day, when he was lost in a tragical reverie, some one abruptly entered. 'Do not interrupt me,' said he, 'I am overwhelmed in business: I am this moment engaged in killing one minister for being a rascal, and banishing another for being a fool.'

172. He was asked, why he was fond of being surrounded by a number of dogs. 'I have always been so,' said he, 'since I was thoroughly well acquainted with mankind.'

THE CRITICS.

173. WHEN prejudice once prevails, reason tries in vain to recover her rights. Names, upon almost all occasions, carry greater weight than things. When the fables of de la Mothe first appeared, it was the fashion to speak very unfavourably of them. At a supper given by the prince of Vendome, the abbé Chauvieu, the bishop of Lucon, the abbé Cointin, and other highly reputed critics were present, and they were all very merry at the expense of de la Mothe, and oppressed the poor author with their censures. Voltaire, who related the anecdote, was one of the party. 'Gentlemen,' said he, with an air of gravity, 'you are all

perfectly right ; you judge according to the rules of the most correct criticism, and of course are sensible what an infinite difference there is between the style of de la Mothe and that of la Fontaine !—*A propos*, Have you seen the *last* edition of the Fables of that incomparable writer ? ‘ No,’ said they. ‘ Are you not,’ continued Voltaire, ‘ acquainted with that most beautiful of all the fables of Fontaine, lately discovered among the papers of the duchess of Bouillon ?’ He read the fable to them. They heard him with looks of delight, and expressed their praise of it in the most rapturous terms. ‘ This is nature itself ; what exquisite simplicity ! what captivating grace !’ ‘ Gentlemen,’ said Voltaire, with a triumphant sneer, ‘ let me undeceive you ; the fable you thus extol was not written by Fontaine, but by de la Mothe ! !’

OLIVER CROMWELL.

174. LORD CLARENDON thus concludes his character : ‘ He had some good qualities, which have caused the memory of some men in all ages to be celebrated ; and he will be looked upon by posterity as a *brave wicked man*.’

175. When he made his public entry into London, his companions remarked to him the great concourse of people who came from all parts to see him. ‘ There would be just as many,’ said he, ‘ if I was going to the scaffold.’

176. He wore the mask of hypocrisy to the last.—When he was nearly at the point of death, he gave out, that God had revealed to him things to come, and that he should recover. He confessed to his friends that this was only a pretended revelation. ‘ If I recover,’ said he, ‘ the silly people will think me a prophet ; and if I die, what does it signify if they think me an impostor ?’

RICHARD CROMWELL.

THE eldest son of Oliver Cromwell. He was a man of an excellent disposition, and remarkable for his gravity and unaffected piety. He is said to have pleaded on his knees before his inflexible father for the life of Charles I. He succeeded to the protectorship, and nobly refused the advice given to him by some of his council to retain his power at the expense of blood.—He retired to France for some years, and returned to England after the Restoration, when party animosities had subsided.

177. When nearly eighty years of age, he went to the bar of the house of lords. There lord Bathurst conversed with him, and asked him how long it was since he had been there before. 'Never, my lord,' said he, 'since I sat in that chair,' pointing to the throne.

He spent many of his last years in obscurity at Cheshunt. He gave a striking and laudable proof how much retirement and peace are to be preferred to the splendour and pomp of power. He enjoyed sound health to the last ; and was so strong and active, that, at the age of fourscore, he was seen to gallop his horse for many miles together. He died in 1712, in his 86th year.

HENRY CROMWELL.

178. THE youngest son of Oliver Cromwell. Like his brother, he was a man of an excellent character, well disposed, and unambitious. He was appointed by his father lord lieutenant of Ireland, and acquitted himself in that government with great credit. He rejoiced in the Restoration, and received some favours from Charles II., for which he was indebted to lord Clarendon. He declared to his brother Richard, "I will rather submit to any sufferings with a good name, than be the greatest man upon earth without one!"

What a virtuous declaration ! what a just and severe censure of the guilty ambition of his father !

ROBINSON CRUSOE.

179. THE fascination of this extraordinary work is not limited to the juvenile reader. Mr. Tawney, a respectable alderman of Oxford, used to read Robinson Crusoe through every year with great delight, and thought every part of it as much matter of fact as his bible. A friend at last asked him, how he could be such a child as to credit a story so marvellous. 'The original Crusoe,' added he, 'was Alexander Selkirk ; and Daniel de Foe, an ingenious writer, embellished the plain story of his shipwreck upon the island of Juan Fernandez, with almost all the adventures and remarks you so much admire.' 'Your information,' said the alderman with a sigh, 'may be correct, but I had rather you had withheld it, for by thus undeceiving me, you have deprived me of one of the greatest pleasures of my old age.'

DAGUESSEAU.

180. WHEN he was high-chancellor of France, a severe law-suit was carried on between the physicians and the surgeons. Mr. Peyronie pleaded ably, and requested the chancellor to order a high wall to be built between the hospitals of the two contending parties. 'But if we do build the wall,' said the chancellor, 'on which side of it shall we place the sick ?'

D'ALEMBERT.

181. WHEN Frederick the Great of Prussia met him at Wesel, after the peace of 1703, he embraced him ; and the first question he asked this celebrated mathematician, was, Whether mathematics furnish any methods to calculate probabilities in politics. D'Alembert

replied, That he must plead ignorance of such methods ; but if any existed, they were rendered totally useless by the monarch who asked the question.

DANTE THE POET.

182. HE was a man of a warm temper and a lofty spirit ; and had good qualities sufficient to procure him great friends, but he had not discretion enough to retain their favour. A prince of Verona, who had taken him under his protection, after he was driven from his own country, observed to him, how strange a custom it was for persons of rank to keep a domestic, called a fool, on purpose to be laughed at. ‘ The fool,’ said he, ‘ pleases, and is a great favorite ; but a wise man is slighted, and even treated with contempt.’ ‘ This custom,’ said Danté, of you men of rank is not strange at all, for a similitude of mind is the basis of friendship.’

MARQUIS D'ARGENSON.

183. ‘ TRUE lovers never count by vulgar time.’ This assertion was well illustrated by the marquis d’Argenson, who, in the spirit of genuine gallantry, said to a lady whom he courted, ‘ When I am in your company the hours are as short as minutes ; when absent, the minutes are as long as hours.’

SIR WILLIAM DAWES.

AN excellent divine at the close of the seventeenth century. He was remarkable for his good nature, and fondness for a pun.

184. When archbishop of York, his clergy dining with him the first time after he had lost his lady, he told them he feared they did not find things in so good order as they used to be in the time of poor *Mary* ; and added with a deep sigh, she was indeed *Mare*

Pacificum. A curate, who well recollected how inapplicable the epithet was, observed, 'Yes, my lord ; but she was *Mare Mortuum* first.' The archbishop was so pleased with the allusion, that within two months he gave him a living.

DEMONAX.

DEMONAX was a Cretan philosopher : he resembled Socrates in his mode of thinking, and Diogenes in his way of life.

185. He was asked, if it was allowable for wise men to drink wine. 'Surely,' said he, 'you cannot think that nature made grapes only for fools.'

DERRICK.

HE was for many years master of the ceremonies at Bath.

186. A young spendthrift saying in public company, that he remembered every thing he lent, but nothing that he borrowed. 'Why then, sir,' observed Derrick, 'it may be very justly said, you have lost half your memory.'

187. A gentleman, who had had several wives, paid his addresses to a widow lady at Bath ; and it being remarked that he was a great duellist, "Then," said Derrick, "the match will be the more *a propos*, for the lady *has killed her man*."

DESMAHIS,

A FRENCH poet and dramatist of considerable note. He was no less excellent for his talents as a writer, than his amiable qualities as a man.

188. He hated quarrels between men of letters.

Some person observed to him, that the number of men of letters was very small in comparison with the bulk of mankind. 'If harmony,' said he, 'reigned among them, small as their number is, they would lead the public opinion, and be the masters of the world.'

189. 'When a friend laughs,' said he, 'it is for him to disclose the subject of his joy ; when he weeps, it is for me to discover the cause of his sorrow.'

190. He expressed himself fully gratified with elegant and refined society, and no feeling of envy or ambition embittered his enjoyments. 'Content,' said he, 'to pass my time in the circle of friendship, formed by the most illustrious men of the age, I have no anxiety to be placed near them in the temple of fame.'

DIOGENES.

DIOGENES, as a disciple of Antisthenes the founder of the Cynic sect of philosophers, assumed the privilege of saying and doing whatever he pleased. In allusion to the name of *cynic*, it may be said of him, that he did not fawn like a spaniel, but barked like a mastiff. What was the elevation of his mind or his indifference to wealth, pomp, and power, may be inferred from his reply to Alexander the Great ; and what was the high estimation in which that monarch held him, is equally clear from the same conversation.

191. Alexander the Great saw Diogenes sitting at the entrance of his tub, and basking in the sun. 'What benefit can I confer upon you ?' said the potent sovereign. 'Stand,' said Diogenes, 'out of the way, and prevent me not from enjoying the sun-shine.' Admiring the independent spirit that suggested this reply, Alexander said, 'If I were not Alexander, I should wish to be Diogenes.'

192. Diogenes being asked, of what beast the bite

is most dangerous, answered, 'Of wild beasts, the bite of a slanderer ; of tame, that of a flatterer.'

193. When Aristippus returned from the court of Dionysius, he said to Diogenes, 'I you knew how to flatter kings, you need not live upon herbs.' To which Diogenes replied, 'If you knew how to live on herbs, you need not flatter kings.'

194. A sophist, wishing to give a specimen of his acute reasoning to Diogenes, argued with him thus : 'What I am thou art not.' 'Granted,' said Diogenes. The sophist proceeded, 'I am a man, therefore thou art not a man.' The cynic replied, 'Begin from *me*, and I will not dispute the soundness of your conclusion.'

DIONYSIUS II.

THE cruelty of his disposition was not allayed by the presence of the great philosopher Plato, whom he invited to his court. He showed, however, in his reverse of fortune, the benefit he had derived from his instructions.

195. Soon after he was expelled from Syracuse, a Greek asked him with a sneer, 'Of what service is the philosophy of Plato to you now ?' 'It assists me,' he replied, 'to behold the vicissitudes of fortune without astonishment, and to suffer her severities without complaint.'

196. Philip king of Macedon asked him, with a sneer, how his father the elder Dionysius had found leisure to compose odes and tragedies. 'You seem,' said Dionysius, 'to make a difficulty of what is easy to be explained. He composed them in those hours which you and I consume in drinking and gaming.'

197. After his expulsion from Syracuse, a Corin-

thian came into his presence designing to ridicule him for the loss of his crown ; and so shook his robe, to show that he had no arms concealed under it, a ceremony observed when a person came into the royal presence : but Dionysius, perceiving the drift of this mockery, retorted the joke upon the jester. ‘ My friend, said he, ‘ thy ceremony is premature ; rather shake thy cloak when thou art going out :’ Dionysius thus giving him to understand, that he thought him a likely person to carry something away that was not his own.

JEROM DONATO.

198. WHEN this noble Venetian was sent ambassador from Venice to pope Julius II., who asked for the title of his republic to the sovereignty of the Adriatic sea, ‘ Your holiness,’ said he, ‘ will find the grant of the Adriatic written at the back of the original record of Constantine’s donation to pope Sylvester of the city of Rome, and other territories to the church.’

This reply was particularly spirited at a period when it was so dangerous to dispute the authenticity of this writ of donation, that, in 1478, several persons had been condemned to the flames at Strasburg for expressing doubts of it.

JOHN DRYDEN.

HE was the great refiner of English versification, and showed Pope the road to poetical excellence. He was the Proteus of authors ; he bent the rules of criticism to all kinds of poems, wrote panegyrics upon the most unworthy patrons,—a Danby and a Rochester ; and fashioned his religious creed to the varying times—to Charles II., he was a protestant, and to his successor a papist. His conduct ought perhaps to be attributed to his indigence, or his fear of indigence, rather than to any natural servility of disposition. Had

he been at liberty to indulge his inclination, he probably would have given more specimens of the sublimity of his genius. Moderate praise would rather disparage, than do justice to his *Alexander's Feast*. It is the noblest poem of the kind the world ever saw.

199. Lady Elizabeth Dryden, one morning, having come into his study at an unseasonable time, when he was intently employed in some composition, and finding her husband did not attend to her, exclaimed, 'Mr Dryden, you are always poring upon these musty books; I wish I was a book, and then I should have more of your company.' 'Well, my dear,' replied the poet, 'when you do become a book, pray let it be an almanack; for then at the end of the year I shall lay you quietly on the shelf, and shall be able to pursue my studies without interruption.'

200. He said, 'I naturally withdraw my sight from a precipice; and, admit the prospect be never so large and goodly, can take no pleasure even in looking on the downfall, though I am secure from the danger. Methinks there is something of a malignant joy in that excellent description of Lucretius, *Suave mari magno*, &c. I am sure his master Epicurus, and my better master Cowley, preferred the solitude of a garden and the conversation of a friend to any consideration, and even to the regard, of those unhappy people whom, in our own wrong, we call the *great*. I can be contented with an humbler station in the temple of virtue, than to be set on the pinnacle of it.'

In his easy but forcible manner, he thus characterised Shakspeare:—

201. "Shakspeare among all the writers of our nation may stand himself as a phoenix, the first and last of his order: in whom bounteous nature wonderfully supplied all the parts of a great poet and excellent orator; and of whom alone one may venture boldly to say, that had he had more learning, perhaps he might have been less of a poet."

202. When the prince of Orange came to England, at the time of the Revolution, five of the seven bishops who had been sent to the Tower declared in his favour, and the two others would not conform to his measures. When Dryden heard of this, he said, 'that *seven golden candlesticks* had been sent to the Tower to be assayed, and *five* of them proved to be *prince's metal* "

203. A young nobleman just come from seeing his play of Cleomenes, told him, in raillery against the continuence of his principal character, " If I had been left alone with a fair lady, I should not have passed my time like your Spartan hero." " That may be," answered the poet with a very grave face ; " for give me leave to tell you, sir, you are no hero."

204. He was one of the few poets who had the judgment to form a due comparative estimate of his own works. He said, " I am glad to hear that my Ode for Cecilia's day is esteemed the best of all my poetry by all the town. I thought so myself when I wrote it ; but, being old, I mistrusted my own judgment." He was then sixty-seven years of age.

205. Dryden's description of wit is excellent.

" A thousand different shapes wit wears,
Comely in thousand shapes appears ;
'Tis not a tale, 'tis not a jest,
Admir'd with laughter at a feast ;
Nor florid talk, which can this title gain,—
The proofs of wit for ever must remain."

QUEEN ELIZABETH.

SHE was the most accomplished woman of her age, and often spoke with as much spirit and dignity as she acted.

206. She evaded giving a direct answer to a theolo-

gical question, respecting the sacrament of the Lord's Supper, with admirable address. On being asked by a popish priest whether she allowed the real presence, she replied,—

“ Christ was the word that spake it,
He took the bread and break it,
And what that word did make it,
That I believe, and take it.”

207. Sir Walter Raleigh having written on a window,

“ Fain would I climb, yet fear I to fall :”

The instant she saw it, she wrote under it,

“ If thy heart fail thee, climb not at all.”

208. A greater instance of promptitude, and that too in Latin, was her extempore reply to the insolent commands delivered to her from Philip II., by his ambassador, in these lines :—

“ *Te, veto, ne pergas bello defendere Belgas ;
Quæ Dracus eripuit, nunc restituantur, oportet ;
Quas pater evertit, jubeo te condere cellas ;
Religio Papæ fac restituatur ad unguem.*”

She instantly answered with heroic spirit,

“ *Ad Græcas, bone rex, fiant mandata, calendas.*”

209. Whether she was sufficiently constant in her attachments to her friends, and behaved with due magnanimity to her enemies, may be questioned. But certain it is, her reputation stood so high in the reign of her successor, from the marked contrast of character, that it was common to hear people talk of *king Elizabeth* and *queen James*.

210. The queen set the greatest value upon William Cecil lord Burleigh : she made him secretary of state and lord treasurer, and esteemed him her ablest minister. When he was sick of the gout at Burleigh-house in the Strand, she visited him ; and being much incommoded with her lofty head-attire then in fashion, lord Burleigh's servant, as he conducted her through the door, said, ' May your highness be pleased to stoop.' The queen answered, ' For your master's sake I will stoop, but not for the king of Spain.' She always made lord Burleigh sit down in her presence, saying, ' My lord, we make use of you, not for your *bad legs*, but for your *good head*.'

211. When Philip II. of Spain equipped the *invincible* armada which threatened England with invasion, Elizabeth appeared on horseback at the camp at Tilbury ; and riding through the ranks of her army with an air which expressed the coolness and intrepidity of her mind, she exhorted her soldiers to remember their duty, their country, and their religion. ' I will myself,' said this heroic queen, ' lead you to the enemy, if they dare to land in this realm. I know I have only the weak arms of a woman ; but I have the heart of a king ; and, what is more, of a king of England. Believe me, I will rather die in battle, than live to see the ruin and slavery of my country !'

212. Elizabeth placed dissimulation among the qualities necessary for sovereigns. A bishop once took the liberty to represent to her, that in a particular instance she had acted more like a politician than a christian. ' I see plainly, my lord,' said she, ' by your remark, that although you may be well acquainted with the other parts of the Scriptures, you have never read the Books of *Kings*.'

213. Queen Elizabeth seeing a gentleman in her garden, who had not been honoured by her favours so soon as he expected, to looking out of her window,

said to him in Italian, 'What does a man think of, sir Edward, when he thinks of nothing?' The answer was, 'He thinks, madam, of a woman's promise.' The queen drew back her head; but was heard to say, 'Well, sir Edward, I must not argue with you: anger makes dull men witty, but it keeps them poor.'

THOMAS ELLWOOD,

AN intelligent and learned Quaker, who was honoured by the intimate friendship of Milton. He used to read to Milton various authors in the learned languages, and thus contributed as well to his own improvement, as to solace the dark hours of the poet when he had lost his sight by an affection of the optic nerves called a *gutta serena*.

214. 'The curious ear of John Milton,' said Ellwood in his own life, 'could discover by the tone of my voice, when I did not clearly understand what I read; and on such occasions he would stop to examine me, and open the difficult passages.'

215. Milton lent Ellwood the manuscript of *Paradise Lost* to read. When he returned it, Milton asked him, how he liked it. 'I like it much,' said the judicious Quaker: 'thou hast written well and said much of *Paradise Lost*; but what hast thou to say of *Paradise Found*?' Milton made no answer, but sat musing for some time. When business afterwards drew Ellwood to London, he called on Milton, who showed him the poem of *Paradise Regained*; and in a pleasant tone said to his friend, 'This is owing to you; for you put it into my head, by the question you asked me at Charlfont, which before I had not thought of.'

ELOQUENCE.

216. ELOQUENCE must be adapted to occasions and persons, or it is good for nothing. It may be judged

of by its *effects*. ‘What a charming speech have we heard!’ said the Romans on leaving the forum where Cicero had been haranguing them; ‘what flowing periods, what brilliant images!’—‘Let us march instantly and fight the invading tyrant,’ said the Athenians, immediately after Demosthenes had been thundering in their ears against Philip of Macedon.—‘That rhetoric,’ says Seldon in his *Table Talk*, ‘is best, which is most seasonable and most catching.’ An instance we have in that old blunt commander at Cadiz, who showed himself a good orator. Being under the necessity of saying something to his soldiers, which he was not used to do, he made them a speech to this purpose: ‘What a shame will it be to you Englishmen, that feed upon good beef and drink strong beer, to let those rascally Spaniards beat you, that eat nothing but oranges and lemons!’ And so put more courage into his men, than he could have done with a learned oration.

KIEN LONG, EMPEROR OF CHINA.

217. SIR GEORGE STAUNTON used to relate a characteristic anecdote of this emperor. He inquired of sir George the manner in which physicians were paid in England. When his majesty was made to comprehend what the practice was, he exclaimed, ‘Can any man in England *afford* to be ill? Now I will inform you,’ said he, ‘how I deal with my physicians. I have four, to whom the care of my health is committed, and a certain weekly salary is allowed to them: but the moment I am ill, that salary is stopped till I am well again. I need not inform you, that my illness is never of any long continuance.’

ENVY.

218. WHEN Bion, one of the wise men of Greece, saw an envious person looking very dejected, he said

to him, 'I am at a loss to tell, whether any good fortune has happened to another person, or any bad to yourself.' Agis, king of Sparta, expressed the same sentiment, when he was informed that certain countrymen of his, men of distinction, envied him : 'I am sorry for it,' said he, 'for they will give themselves double uneasiness ; they will be tormented both with their own misfortunes and with my prosperity.'

EPICTETUS.

A GREAT mind is so elastic, that it rises under the pressure of the heaviest evils that nature or fortune can lay upon it.

219. Epictetus was a cripple, a slave, and a pauper ; and yet what sage of ancient Greece or Rome ever taught a lesson more noble, or more productive of the two greatest and most rational enjoyments of man,—the health of the body and the tranquillity of the mind,—than the maxim, *Bear and forbear?*

220. Epictetus was an example of virtue as well as of wisdom ; and his tenets, as far as they can be collected from the Manual of Arrian, approach more nearly to the purity of the Christian system than those of any other philosopher.

Epictetus said, 'that if any evil happened to one of the vulgar, he blamed others ; a novice in philosophy blamed himself ; but a true philosopher blamed no one.'

HARRY ERSKINE.

221. LORD KELLIE was amusing the company with the account of a sermon he had heard in Italy, in which the preacher related the miracle of St. Anthony preaching to the fishes, which, in order to listen to his pious discourse, held their heads out of the water. 'I can

credit the miracle,' said Harry Erskine, 'if your lordship was at church.' 'I certainly was there,' said the peer. 'Then,' rejoined Harry, 'there was at least one fish out of water.'

MARIA BEATRICE D'ESTE.

222. MARIA BEATRICE D'ESTE, daughter of the duke of Modena, was the second wife of James II. Louis XIV. was very liberal in his attentions both to her and to the exiled monarch her bigoted consort. When the queen saw Louis caress the prince of Wales, who was a lovely child, she said to him: 'I have often envied the happiness of my son, because he is not of an age to feel the pain of his misfortunes; but now I pity him, because he is insensible to your majesty's caresses and kindness.'

PRINCE EUGENE.

223. THE renowned marshal Boufflers distinguished himself by his brave defence of Lisle against this prince. When the place surrendered, and the marshal was taken prisoner, 'I have too much glory,' said the prince, 'in this achievement: had fortune given me my choice, I would rather have defended the place in the manner you have done, than have taken it.'

224. Old General Oglethorpe told Dr. Joseph Warton two anecdotes of prince Eugene and the duke of Marlborough, not publicly known. When the prince went to consult the duke in his tent, the night before the great battle of Blenheim, the duke, with his characteristic parsimony and attention to little in the midst of great things, snuffed out two of the four candles that were burning on the table, and said, 'We can talk without so much light.'

225. At a grand dinner the duke was called upon for

a toast, and gave, *Mea Regina*, alluding to queen Anne. Prince Eugene whispered to the person who sat next him, 'If he means to give the toast of his heart, he should give, *Regina pucunia*.'

226. The duke of Marlborough at his death left prince Eugene his sword; lord Orford, the minister's son, was with the prince, when this mark of his great rival's final esteem was brought and presented to him. He immediately drew it, and, making a flourish with it, said in French, 'Behold the sword which I have followed through the whole of this long war.'

227. This prince gave his testimony how much the success of an army may depend upon the appointment of its general. In the war that commenced against the allies in 1701, the French cabinet was at a loss as to the choice of a general. When this indecision was talked of in the council of the emperor of Germany, prince Eugene said, 'If Villeroi get the command, I shall beat him; if Vendome be appointed, we shall have a severe struggle; if it be Catinat, I shall be beaten.'

EURIPIDES.

228. EURIPIDES composed his Tragedies very slowly. He complained to the poet Alcestis that he had, with considerable labour, finished only four verses in three days. Alcestis, who wrote with all the readiness of a bad author, told him that he had in the same time composed a hundred with perfect ease. 'But,' said Euripides rather piqued, 'there is this difference between our compositions: your verses will live for three days, and mine will live for ever.'

FABIUS MAXIMUS.

229. HANNIBAL tried every art to draw him into a battle. 'If Fabius,' said he, 'be so great a general as

he is reported to be, he ought to descend from the mountains, and fight me in the plains.' Fabius replied, 'If Hannibal be so great a general as he fancies himself to be, he ought to force me to fight him any where.'

CARY LORD FALKLAND.

230. HE was one of the most amiable and accomplished nobleman of his age. It was a saying of his : 'I pity unlearned gentlemen on a rainy day.' He fell fighting valiantly in the royal cause at the battle of Newbury, in the thirty-fourth year of his age

FENELON.

231. A PERSON talking to Fénelon upon the subject of the criminal laws in France, approved, in contradiction to the archbishop of the number of executions for criminal offences. 'I maintain,' said he, 'that such criminals are unfit to live.' 'But, my friend,' said Fenelon, 'you do not reflect, that they are still more unfit to die.'

FERDINAND, KING OF SPAIN.

232. FERDINAND, king of Spain, used to say, 'that he could distinguish a wise man from a fool by the following marks : Moderation in anger, government in household affairs, and writing a letter without useless repetitions.'

GONZALO FERNANDEZ.

233. GONZALO FERNANDEZ DE CORDOVA, surnamed *the Great Captain*, passed often by the door of two damsels, daughters of a poor gentlemen, and as often expressed his admiration of their beauty, which was superlative. The father hearing of this, thought that

it would be a fair occasion of mending his fortune, and went to the Great Captain and asked him for some office out of the town. The Great Captain understanding him that he intended to leave his house, in order to give him free access to the fair damsels, asked him, 'What family have you?' The gentleman answered, 'Two young daughters.' 'Stay,' said the Great Captain, 'and I will give you portions for them:' and, entering a closet, he brought out two purses, each containing a thousand ducats of gold. 'Here,' said he; 'one of these will provide for your two daughters, and the other will provide for yourself. Heaven forbid their innocence should lose the protection of their father!'

DANIEL DE FOE.

234. THIS author has been very cruelly treated. It does not appear what provocation he gave to Pope to stigmatise him in the *Dunciad* in the following line:

'Earless on high, stood unabash'd De Foe.'

'That he stood in the pillory in the year 1702, for a supposed libel, called 'The Shortest Way with the Dissenters,' is a fact that cannot be denied. But that he lost his ears when he suffered this disgrace, is not so clear. He was the author of a work, which will be read long after the *Dunciad* is forgotten, and which is better worth reading than any thing Pope ever wrote;—that work is *Robinson Crusoe*.

But a greater injury has been done to the memory of De Foe, by the prevailing tradition, that he got possession of the manuscripts of Alexander Selkirk, who had lived for several years upon the uninhabited island of Juan Fernandez, and that he published these manuscripts as his own. Now the fact is, the story of Alexander Selkirk is included in the account of captain Woodes Rodger's Voyage round the World, and that voyage was published in the year 1712. But the first

part of Robinson Crusoe was not published till *seven years* after, that is, in the year 1719, an interval ample enough for so rapid a writer as De Foe to have composed a much longer narrative.

The leading occurrence, of a sailor living alone on a remote island, is indeed the same both as related in captain Rogers' Voyage, and in De Foe's romance ; but the whole tenour of the story, the adventures and the reflections in Robinson Crusoe, are perfectly original, and are the productions of a man blessed with a most happy invention. How comprehensive and correct must his knowledge of the human mind have been, who could compose a work that is found to be equally pleasing, or rather irresistibly captivating, by persons of both sexes and of all countries, ages, and conditions of life !

The anecdote of the worthy alderman of Oxford,* is similar to a story told by Horace in one of his Epistles :—

At Argos liv'd a citizen well known,
Who long imagin'd that he heard the tone
Of deep tragedians on an empty stage,
And sat applauding in ecstatic rage ;
In other points, a person who maintain'd
A due decorum, and a life unstain'd.

He, when his friends, with much expense and pains,
Had amply purg'd with hellebore his brains,
Said, ' friends, 'twere better you had stopt my breath ;
Your love was rancour, and your cure was death,
To rob me thus of pleasure so refin'd,
The dear delusion of a raptur'd mind.'

Francis' Horace.

A story of the same kind is related by Aristotle, of a native of Abydos.

* See page 68.

FONTENELLE.

235. HE reached the very advanced age of ninety-nine years, and continued his literary pursuits to the last. Lord Orrery, in a letter written from Marston, near Glastonbury in Somersetshire, very beautifully said, 'Fontenelle, like our neighboring thorn, blossoms in the winter of his days.' Voltaire pronounced him to be the most universal genius of the age of Louis XIV.

236. A person of quality called upon Fontenelle, and found him in a very bad humour. 'What is the matter?' said he. 'The case is this,' said the philosopher; 'I have only one servant, and I am waited upon as badly as you are who have twenty.'

237. Fontenelle was probably the only man ever known to say, at a very advanced age, 'Was I to begin again my mortal career, I would do exactly as I have done.'

238. The duchess of Maine, a lady of great wit and accomplishments, asked some of her company one day, who were persons of wit, 'What is the difference between me and a clock?' They were all much at a loss for an answer. When Fontenelle entered the room, the same question being put to him, he instantly replied, 'The difference between you and a clock is this: a clock marks the hours, but your grace makes us forget them.'

239. A physician observed to Fontenelle, that coffee kills by a slow poison. 'Yes, very slow indeed,' answered the philosopher smiling; 'for I have taken it every day for these fourscore years past, and am alive still.'

SAMUEL FOOTE.

240. HE was justly entitled the English Aristophanes, for he indulged in the licentiousness of the old Greek comedy, and introduced the characters of living persons upon the stage. He deserved applause for his wit, and castigation for his personalities. His wit and drollery were wont to set the table on a roar ; and as a proof how facetious a companion he was, Dr. Johnson whose risible muscles were not remarkable for their flexibility, and came into his company determined not to be pleased with him, declared ‘ that he found Foote irresistible.’

241. Foote and Garrick were at a tavern together, at the time when the gold coin was regulated. Foote taking out his purse to pay his reckoning, asked Garrick what he should do with a light guinea. ‘ Pshaw ! it is worth nothing,’ said Garrick ; ‘ so fling it to the devil.’ ‘ Well David,’ said Foote, ‘ you are an ingenious fellow, as I always thought you ; ever contriving to make a guinea *go farther* than any other man.’

242. The late duke of Norfolk was remarkably fond of his bottle. On a masquerade night, he consulted Foote as to what character he should appear in. ‘ Don’t go disguised,’ said Foote, ‘ but assume a new character ; go sober.’

243. Foote once walking with a friend, met a beggar who very earnestly solicited their charity. His friend refused ; and, on Foote giving him a few pence, said, ‘ I believe you are duped, for I am morally certain the fellow is an impostor.’ ‘ He is either the most distressed man, or the best actor, I ever saw in my life,’ replied Foote ; ‘ and, either as the one or the other, he has a brotherly claim upon me.’

CHARLES FOX

244. WAS never at a loss for a repartee. During

a Westminster election, when he was opposed by sir Cecil Wray, one of the adverse party, when a dead cat was thrown upon the hustings, observed, that it smelled worse than a Fox. 'That is not at all extraordinary,' said Fox, 'considering it is a *pole-cat*.'

245. Some person asked him what was the meaning of that passage in the Psalms, 'he clothed himself with cursing, like as with a garment?' 'The meaning, said he 'I think, is clear enough; the man had a *habit* of swearing.'

246. On a consultation of the minority members previous to an important question being brought forward by the ministry in the house of commons, it was asked, who would be a proper person to move the amendment. Mr. Fox replied, 'Saddle *Black Surrey*, for the field to-morrow.'

247. Lord North exulting over Fox on the publication of a Gazette extraordinary, to announce that New York was conquered; Fox observed, 'It is a mistake, sir: New York is not conquered, it is only, like the ministry, *abandoned*.'

248. Burke and Fox supping one evening together at the thatched House, were served with some dishes more elegant than usual. Fox's appetite happening to be rather keen, he by no means relished the light dainties before him; but, addressing his companion, said, 'My good friend, these dishes are well suited to your taste, as they are both *sublime* and *beautiful*.'

FRANCIS THE FIRST.

249. THIS monarch entertained a great regard for Leonardo da Vinci, and invited that accomplished painter to leave Milan and settle in France. Having then reached seventy years of age, he fell sick. The king, who was sensible of his extraordinary merit,

very frequently went to visit him. When some of his courtiers expressed their surprise, that so great a monarch should deign to pay so much attention to an humble artist, a man of no rank or family; Francis thus silenced their haughty objections: 'Be not surprised at the honour I pay to this admirable painter, but learn to make a right estimate of his value—and your own. I can make any day I please such lords as you, but God alone can make such a man as Leonardo da Vinci.'

250. Francis I., after losing the battle of Pavia, in which he was taken prisoner by Charles V., wrote to his mother in these terms: 'Madam, we have lost every thing except our honour.'

251. Francis I. consulting with his generals, how to lead his army over the Alps into Italy, Amarel his fool sprang from a corner, and advised him to consult rather—how to lead it back.

252. Francis was the first monarch who introduced ladies at his court. He said, in a style of true gallantry, 'that a drawing-room without ladies, was like the year without the spring; or rather, like the spring without flowers.'

DR. FRANKLIN.

253. A young American having broken an appointment with Dr. Franklin, came to him the following day prepared to make his peace with a studied apology. He was proceeding at a tiresome length, introducing with much ingenuity, but at the expense of truth, a variety of reasons for his want of punctuality; when Dr. Franklin stopped him: 'My dear boy, say no more, you have indeed said too much already; for he who is so good at making an excuse, is seldom good at any thing else.'

FREDERICK OF PRUSSIA.

254. As he was walking in the gardens of Sans Souci with Mr. D'Alembert, he said to him, 'Do you see that old woman, a poor weeder, asleep on that sunny bank?—she is probably a more happy being than either of us.'

255. A lady of fashion complimented him in such high terms, that he was rather disgusted than pleased with her flattery. She said, among other things, That he was covered with glory, was the peace-maker of Europe, and the greatest monarch upon earth. 'Madam,' replied the king, 'you are as handsome as an angel; witty, accomplished, and enchanting; in short, you possess all admirable qualities—but *you paint*.'

FURETIERE.

256. BENSERADE was once at a meeting of the French Academy, and took the chair of Furetiere, whom he disliked; and said, as he was sitting down, 'This is a place from which you naturally expect to hear a great many foolish things'—'Well done,' said Furetiere, 'you have made an admirable beginning.'

DAVID GARRICK.

HE was the most admirable and chaste actor that ever trod the stage. His abilities to represent, were only equalled by the genius of Shakspeare to delineate, all the diversified characters of the Drama. His conversation displayed much of the spirit and brilliancy with which he wrote, and performed on the stage.

257. The expression of his eyes, and the flexibility of his features, are well known to have given him the most extraordinary advantages in the representation of various characters. He sometimes availed himself of these natural assistances, to produce a ludicrous scene

among his friends. He frequently visited Mr. Rigby, at Misley Thorn in Essex. Mr. Rigby one day inquired of his servant, what company was arrived. The servant said, Lord M—— was come, and had brought with him a short gentleman with very bright eyes, meaning Mr. Garrick. ‘Why have I not the pleasure of seeing them here?’ said Mr. Rigby. ‘I don’t know,’ said the servant, ‘how long it will be before my lord can make his appearance; for the case is this: The barber came to shave his lordship; and just as he had shaved half his lordship’s face, the short gentleman with the bright eyes began to read the newspaper to him; but he read it in such a droll way, and made so many odd faces, that my lord laughed, and the barber laughed, and when I went into the room, I could not help laughing too; so that, sir, if you don’t send for the short gentleman, his lordship must appear at dinner with one side of his face smooth and the other with a beard of two days’ growth.’

258. Garrick was on a visit at Hagley, when news came that a company of players were going to perform at Birmingham. Lord Lyttleton said to Garrick, ‘They will hear you are in the neighbourhood, and will ask you to write an address to the Birmingham audience.’ ‘Suppose then,’ said Garrick, without the least hesitation, ‘I begin thus:

Ye sons of iron, copper, brass, and steel,
Who have not heads to think, nor hearts to feel....’

‘O,’ cried his lordship, ‘if you begin thus they will hiss the players off the stage, and pull the house down.’ ‘My lord,’ said Garrick, ‘what is the use of an address, if it does not come home to the *business* and *bosoms* of the audience?’

259. The first time Henderson the player rehearsed a part at Drury-lane, George Garrick said as he entered, ‘I only come as a *spectator*.’ Soon after, he made

some objections to Henderson's playing ; and the new actor retorted, ' I thought you only came as *Spectator*, but you are turning *Tatler*.' ' Never mind him,' said David Garrick very good naturedly ; ' let him be what he will, I will be *Guardian*.'

260. The duchess of Kingston asked Garrick one day, why Love was represented as a child. He replied, ' Because love never reaches the age of wisdom and experience.'

261. A friend made Garrick a present of a case that contained a razor, a strap, and a shaving-box ; and telling him that he would find some other pretty little things in it, ' I hope,' said Garrick, ' as I cannot shave myself, that one of them is a pretty little barber.'

262. Mr. Twiss, a romancing traveller, was talking of a church he had seen in Spain a mile and a half long. ' Bless me !' said Garrick, ' how broad was it ?' ' About ten yards,' said Twiss. ' This is, you'll observe, gentlemen,' said Garrick to the company, ' not a round lie, but differs from his other stories, which are generally as broad as they are long.'

263. Sterne, who used his wife very ill, was one day talking to Garrick, in a fine sentimental manner, in praise of conjugal love and fidelity. ' The husband,' said Sterne, ' who behaves unkindly to his wife, deserves to have his house burnt over his head.' ' If you think so,' said Garrick, ' I hope *your* house is insured.'

GENIUS.

264. ' I know of no such thing as genius,' said Hogarth to Mr. Gilbert Cooper : ' genius is nothing but labour and diligence.'

265. Sir Isaac Newton said of himself, ' That if eve-

he had been able to do any thing, he had effected it by patient thinking only.'

SIR HUMPHREY GILBERT.

266. HE was brother-in-law by the mother's side to sir Walter Raleigh, and possessed many of the various talents for which that great man was distinguished.—He, as well as sir Walter, pursued his studies by sea and land ; and was seen in the dreadful tempest which swallowed up his ship, sitting unmoved in the stern of his vessel, with a book in his hand, and was often heard to say, ' Courage, my lads ! we are as near heaven by sea as by land.'

GNATHENA.

267. This lady was a Grecian courtesan. When a very diminutive bottle of wine was brought for her to taste, with the recommendation that it was very old : ' It may be so,' said she, ' but it certainly is very small of its age.'

This joke, of very high antiquity, has been attributed to Quin. Such coincidences of wit confirm Porson's observation. (See the preface to this work.)

GODFREY OF BULLOIGN.

168. WHEN this great champion of the Crusades was inaugurated king of Jerusalem, he was offered a crown. He meekly declined it, saying, ' He would never wear a crown of gold in the place where his Saviour had worn a crown of thorns.'

DR. GOLDSMITH.

269. SPEAKING of Dr. Johnson's force and perseverance in disputation, said, ' There is no arguing with

him ; for, if his pistol misses fire, he knocks you down with the butt end of it.'

SIR WILLIAM GOOCH.

270. SIR WILLIAM GOOCH, the governor of Williamsburg, walking along the street in conversation with a friend, returned the salute of a negro, who was passing by. 'Do you deign,' said his friend, 'to take notice of a slave?' 'Yes,' replied the governor; 'for I cannot allow even a slave to excel me in good manners.'

THE DUKE DE GRAMMONT.

271. HE was distinguished by the brevity, energy, and point of his speeches. He was commissioned to ask the king of Spain, the Infanta his daughter in marriage for the king of France. 'Sire,' said he to the king of Spain, 'my master gives you peace;' and then turning to the Infanta, he continued, 'and to you, madam, he gives his heart and his crown.'

272. He besieged a town, and the governor capitulated. When the governor was introduced to him, he said, 'I will confess to you, in confidence, that I proposed to surrender because I wanted powder.' 'To return your confidence,' said the duke, 'I confess I granted you such good conditions, because I wanted ball.'

MR. GRATTAN

273. NEVER lighted the fire of his eloquence into a more splendid blaze, than when he pronounced a panegyric on the great lord Chatham. Grattan said of lord Chatham, 'His eloquence was an æra in the senate peculiar and spontaneous, familiarly expressing gigantic sentiments and instructive wisdom: not like the torrents of Demosthenes, or the splendid conflagration of

Tully ; it resembled sometimes the thunder, and sometimes the music, of the spheres. It lightened on the subject, and reached the point by the flashings of the mind, which, like those of his eye, were felt, but could not be followed.'

' Upon the whole, there was in this man something that could create, subvert, or reform ; an understanding, a spirit, and an eloquence to summon mankind to society, or to break the bonds of slavery asunder, and to rule the wilderness of free minds with unbounded authority ; something that could establish or overwhelm an empire, and strike a blow in the world that should resound through the universe.'

SIR FULK GREVIL.

274. HE was afterwards lord Brook. He was a member of the house of commons, when the house insisted much upon precedents. ' Why,' said he, ' do you stand so much upon precedents ? The times hereafter will be good or bad. If good, precedents will do no harm ; if bad, power will make a way, where it finds none.,

LADY JANE GREY.

275. LADY JANE GREY, of the blood royal of England by both parents, was as much distinguished by her learning, as by her sweetness of disposition, her piety, and other excellent qualities. When the learned Roger Ascham paid her a visit at her father's castle, at Bradgate in Leicestershire, in 1690, all the family were gone a hunting, except lady Jane, whom he found in her own apartment reading the *Phædon* of Plato, in the original Greek. He asked her, why she lost such pastime as there needs must be in the park ; to which she answered, smiling, ' I wist all their sport in the park is but a shadow to that pleasure I find in Plato.' This naturally leading him to inquire, how a lady of her age

had attained such proficiency in so learned an author as Plato ; ‘ I will tell you,’ said she, ‘ and I will tell you a truth which perchance you will marvel at. One of the greatest benefits that ever God gave me is, that he sent me so sharp and severe parents, and so gentle a schoolmaster. For when I am in presence of either father or mother, whatever I do, be it sewing, playing, dancing, or doing any thing else, I am so sharply taunted, so cruelly threatened, yea presently, sometimes with pinches and other ways, that I think myself in hell till time comes that I must go to Mr. Aylmer, who teacheth me so gently, so pleasantly, and with such fair allurements to learning, that I think all the time nothing while I am with him ; and when I am called from him, I fall on weeping, because whatsoever I do else but learning, is full of grief, trouble, fear, and wholly misliking unto me. And thus my book hath been so much my pleasure, and bringeth daily to me more and more satisfaction, that in respect of it, all else is in very deed but trifles and troubles unto me.’

GROSSETETE, BISHOP OF LINCOLN.

HE was an able scholar and enlightened divine of the thirteenth century. He was skilled in various languages, arts, and sciences ; and that he possessed a kind of knowledge, that of human nature, more valuable than any other, will appear from the following anecdote.

276. He had a brother a farmer, who was very ambitious, and asked him to take him from his humble occupation and promote him to some high office.— ‘ Brother,’ said the bishop, ‘ if your plough is broken, I will pay for mending it, if one of your oxen should die, I will give you money to buy another ; but a farmer I found you, and a farmer I will leave you.’

GUIDO RENI.

277. GUERCINO was very desirous to know the model by which Guido painted the heads of his women ; he therefore begged a common friend to prevail upon Guido to satisfy his curiosity. The friend went and made his request. Immediately Guido ordered the woman who ground his colours, who was ugliness itself, to sit down before him, and painted the most beautiful female head that could be imagined. ' So,' said he to the astonished friend of Guercino, ' relate what you have seen me do ; and be assured, that when an artist has his head filled with fine ideas, he wants no other model than such a one as you see before me.'

ADMIRAL HADDOCK.

THE family of the Haddocks were remarkable for their eminent services at sea. The grandfather, father and son, had medals given them at one and the same time, for their gallant behaviour in a general action against the Dutch.

278. When admiral sir Richard Haddock was dying, he called his son, and said to him, ' Considering my rank in life, and public services for so many years, I shall leave you but a small fortune ; but, my dear boy, it was honestly got, and will wear well ; there are no seamen's wages or provisions ; not one single penny of dirty money in it.'

THE EARL OF HALIFAX.

279. At the beginning of the revolution in 1688, several persons of rank, who had been very active and serviceable in bringing about that event, but who had no great abilities, applied for some of the most considerable employments under government. The earl of Halifax being consulted on the propriety of admitting these claims, ' I remember,' said he, ' to have read in

history, that Rome was saved by geese ; but I don't recollect that any of them were made consuls.'

HANNIBAL.

280. **FABIUS MAXIMUS** cautiously avoided coming to a general action with him, and exhausted his patience by protracting the war. Fabius encamped upon the mountains ; but Terentius, his colleague, rashly fighting with Hannibal, Fabius was obliged to descend from his lofty station. He rescued Terentius, and drove the Carthagenians back with great loss. 'The clouds,' said Hannibal, 'which have been so long hovering over the mountains, have at length broke, and produced a violent storm.'

281. In a conference with Scipio Africanus, he talked of the greatest generals. Scipio asked whom he thought the first in the world. He answered, 'Alexander the Great.' 'And the second?' 'Pyrrhus, king of Epirus.' 'And the third?' 'Myself,' said Hannibal. 'Suppose you had conquered me,' said Scipio, 'where would you have placed yourself?' 'I should have placed myself first,' was the reply. What must he have thought of Scipio, who vanquished him !

282. Antiochus, king of Syria, showed Hannibal the large army he had raised to fight against the Romans. He drew out in review before him the foot soldiers, glittering with gold and silver, and the cavalry caparisoned with purple trappings. The vain-glorious monarch beheld Hannibal surveying all this pompous parade in silence, and presuming upon his approbation said, 'Do you not think that such troops as these will be *enough* for the Romans.' 'Yes,' said Hannibal, who well knew how to estimate show without strength, 'they will be enough for the Romans, if the Romans were even ten times more avaricious than they are.'

SIR JOHN HARRINGTON,

283. Now chiefly known as the translator of Ariosto's Orlando Furioso. He was distinguished in the court of Elizabeth for his wit and gallantry. He was the Martial of the day, as he published a book of neat epigrams. His royal mistress was pleased with his poetry. On his return from Ireland, and not long before her death, sir John relates, that 'she bade the archbishop ask me (at the time when the fate of Essex hung heavy upon her mind,) if I had seen Tyrone. I replied, that I had seen him with the lord deputy Essex. She looked up, with much grief in her countenance, and said, 'O now it mindeth me that you was one, who saw this manne elsewhere;' and hereat she dropped a tear, and smote her bosom. She held in her hand a golden cuppe, which she often put to her lippes; but in sooth her heart seemeth too full to lack more fillinge * * *. Her majesty inquired of some matters which I had written; and as she was pleased to note my fanciful braine, I was not unheedful to feede her humoure, and reade some verses, whereat she smiled once, and was pleased to saie,—'When thou doste feele creepyinge time at thy gate, these fooleries will please thee lesse. I am past my relishe for such matters; thou seest my bodie meate doth not suit me well. I have eaten but one ill-tasted cake since yesternight.'—*Extract of a Letter from Sir John to his Lady, Dec. 20, 1602.*

HENRY HEADLEY.

284. He was the author of 'Select Beauties of antient English Poetry,' and of some delightful poems. His conversation like his writings, was rich in pointed remarks, and enlivened with flashes of wit. Being asked the literary character of Ben Johnson, 'He showed,' said Headly, 'the patience of a drudge and the attainments of a pedant, but rarely the originality of a man of genius; and from his constant habit of walk-

ing on the stilts of authority and prescription, he soon lost the free use of his legs.'

285. Speaking of an injudicious abridgment of *Quarles's Emblems*, put into modern language, he exclaimed, "Alas, poor Quarles, how are you disguised and degraded! This is like chaining Columbus to an oar, or making John duke of Marlborough a train-band corporal."

286. Headley, although not so enthusiastic an admirer of Virgil as his friend *Benwell*, yet was very fond of all his *original* beauties. 'There are delicate touches, and discriptions of Virgil,' said Headley, 'which even the most skilful painter cannot represent, and which have escaped the observation of many of the commentators, and probably of more than one critic.' On being called upon for an instance, he repeated the following lines :—

*'Vide Hecuban, sentumque nurus, Priamumque per aras,
Sanguine sedantem quos ipse sacraverat, ignes.'*

'It is remarkable,' added he, 'that Dr. Blair, in his lectures, expressly selected this passage, as an instance of Virgil's talents for poetical description; but this exquisite beauty, the *quos ipse sacraverat ignes*, he has omitted to notice.' This remark was thought by the company present, to be worthy of the refined taste and acumen of Quintilian, or Joseph Warton.

DR. HENNEKER.

287. LORD CHATHAM asked Dr. Henneker for a description of wit. 'My lord,' said he, 'wit is like what a pension would be, if given by your lordship to your humble servant—a good thing well applied.'

HENRY IV.

THE French, 'before their minds were poisoned by the pestilent follies of the Revolution, entertained for none of their kings a greater regard than for Henry IV. This predilection was founded upon just grounds ; for he was affable, generous, and brave ; and had a capacity equally well adapted to peace or war. Aided by the sagacious councils of the duke of Sully, his friend and minister, he laid the foundation of that grandeur to which the French empire afterwards rose. He made many a jocose, and many a pointed speech ; but never expressed himself in terms of malignity.

288. When he was dangerously ill, in the year 1598, he said to Sully : ' My friend, I have no fear of death ; you have seen me face it a hundred times ; but I regret losing my life before I have been able, by governing my subjects well, and easing their burthens, to convince them that I love them as much as I do my own children.'

289. Immediately before the battle of Ivry in 1590. Henry rode along the ranks of his army, and showed his soldiers his helmet, surmounted with a plume of white feathers, and said, with an ardour which he communicated : ' My children, look here ; if your standards are lost, this is the rallying point ; this will lead you to victory and glory.'

290. After this battle, in which he was victorious, the jewels, and rich dresses of the duke de Joyeuse, general of the Catholics, were brought to him ; but he declined to accept them, saying in a true spirit of a hero, ' It is the part of players to be vain of their rich dresses ; but the true ornaments of a general are, courage and presence of mind in battle, and moderation after a victory.'

291. He was once troubled with a fit of the gout ;

and the Spanish ambassador coming then to visit him, and saying he was very sorry to see his majesty so lame ; he answered, ' As lame as I am, if there be occasion, your master, the king of Spain, shall no sooner have his foot in the stirrup, than he shall find me on horseback.'

292. Henry IV. said to a Spanish ambassador, ' If the king your master continues his aggressions, I am resolved to take up arms ; and I shall soon reach Madrid.' ' So you may, sir,' said the ambassador ; ' but recollect that Francis I. was there before you.' ' For that very reason,' retorted Henry, ' I will go there to avenge his wrongs and my own.'

293. The testimony given to the martial abilities of Henry IV. by the duke of Parma, one of the greatest generals of his age, was very characteristic of the keenness of his views, and the velocity of his movements. ' Other generals,' said the duke, ' carry on war like lions and tigers ; but Henry carries it on like an eagle.'

294. The magistrates of Paris received orders to entertain the ambassadors from the Swiss Cantons. As this was likely to be a great expense, they asked leave of Henry to lay a tax upon the cisterns and pumps, in order to defray it. ' I beg,' said the considerate monarch, ' you will find some other method to feast my allies ; do you not know that it is the exclusive privilege of our blessed Saviour to change water into wine ?'

295. When a person endeavoured to convince him, that his excessive clemency in pardoning all his enemies would prove injurious, he observed, ' You may catch more flies with a spoonful of honey, than with a ton of vinegar.'

296. Henry IV. walked one day with the duke de

Mayenne, who had disputed his right to the crown of France, and made war against him. The duke was corpulent, and a very bad walker ; and the king enjoyed tiring him, by making him walk fast for a considerable time : when the king at last stopped, he said to the duke with his usual pleasantry, ‘ Cousin, we are now even ; I have had my revenge.’

297. Henry hearing it observed, that James I. of England was a second Solomon, ‘ True,’ said he, ‘ I think he is the son of David the fiddler,’ alluding to David Rizzio.

298. Henry received congratulations from the deputies of the parliament of Paris for a victory he had gained. The king directed their attention to the marshal de Biron, who had greatly contributed to his success. ‘ Gentlemen,’ said the king, ‘ this is the hero whom I present with equal pleasure to my friends and to my enemies.’

299. He was as intrepid as he was affable and facetious. His friends were alarmed for his safety, and remonstrated with him, that in the midst of conspirators, he ought to take more care of his person, and not go out so frequently alone, or at least not so ill attended. ‘ Fear,’ said he, ought never to have a place in a royal mind. Those who fear death will never attempt my life ; and those who despise life, will always be masters of mine, although a thousand guards were set to prevent them. None but tyrants ought to live in constant fear.’

JOHN HEYWOOD.

He was a favourite at court, both in the reign of Henry VIII. and Queen Mary, as a poet and a jester. He was one of the first who wrote English plays.

300. He wrote a work called ‘ The spider and the

Fly, a Parable,' in 1556. It contains no less than seventy-seven chapters : at the beginning of every one of these chapters is a portrait of the author, either standing or sitting before a table, with a book upon it, and a window near it hung round with cobwebs, flies and spiders.

Can there be found in the annals of authorship, an instance of such consummate vanity ?

301. Queen Mary asked him, ' what wind blew him to court.' He answered, ' He was blown there by two winds ; one was to see your majesty.' ' We thank you for that,' said the queen ; ' but pray tell me, what was the other ?' ' the other,' said he, ' was, that your majesty might see me.'

302. When he saw a gentleman riding with a lady of doubtful character sitting behind him, he said, ' Truly, sir, I should say that your horse was overloaded, if I did not perceive that the lady you carry is very *light*.'

303. When it was observed, that the number of lawyers would ruin the profession, ' By no means,' said he, ' for the more spaniels in the field, the more game.'

304. Dining one day with a gentleman whose beer was better hopped than malted, the gentleman asked Heywood, how he liked his beer. ' By the faith of my body !' said he, ' it is very well hopped ; but if it had hopped a little further, it had hopped into the water.'

305. He compared severe critics upon the works of authors, ' to those unmannerly guests, who, when they have been well and kindly feasted, flinch away, never giving thanks, but dispraising and depraving their courteous entertainment.'

BISHOP HOUGH.

306. A young gentleman, whose family had been

well acquainted with Dr. John Hough, bishop of Worcester, in making the tour of England, called to pay his respects to his lordship as he passed by his seat in the country : it happened to be dinner time, and the room full of company. The bishop, however, received him with great familiarity ; but the servant, in reaching him a chair, threw down a curious weather-glass, that had cost twenty guineas, and broke it. The gentleman was under infinite concern, and began to excuse the servant, and make an apology for being himself the occasion of the accident ; when the bishop, with great good nature interrupted him : ‘ Be not under any concern,’ said he, smiling ; ‘ for I am much beholden to you for it. We have had a very dry season, and now I hope we shall have rain. I never saw the glass so *low* in my life !’

The bishop was at that time more than fourscore. The combination of so great an age, with such perfect good humour was surely admirable.

HENRY HOWARD.

307. HE was earl of Northampton, and lord privy seal to king James I. The king took great delight in conversing with him at his table. The king asked him upon a sudden ; ‘ My lord, have you not a desire to see Rome ?’ The earl answered, ‘ Yes indeed, sir.’ The king said, ‘ And why ?’ The earl answered, ‘ Because it was the seat of the greatest monarchy, and the seminary of the bravest men in the world, whilst it was heathen ; and then, secondly, because afterwards it was the see of so many holy bishops in the primitive church, most of them martyrs.’ The king would not give over the conversation, and said, ‘ And for nothing else ?’ The earl answered ; ‘ Yes, for two things more ; the one, to see him who, they say, has so great a power to forgive other men their sins ; and the other, to hear anti-christ say his creed.’

308. When peace was renewed with the French in England, several of the great counsellors were present-

ed by the French with jewels ; but the lord Henry Howard, although a counsellor, was omitted. Whereupon the king said to him, ‘ My lord, how happens it that you have not a jewel as well as the rest ? ’ Upon which question, my lord answered, with an admirable *equivoque*, alluding to the well-known fable in Æsop : *Non sum GALLUS, itaque non reperi gemmam.*

HOWARD THE PHILANTHROPIST.

309. He had several interviews with Joseph II. emperor of Germany. Howard took the freedom to complain of the comfortless and unwholesome state of the Austrian and Hungarian prisons. The emperor, who valued himself upon a code of penal laws more efficacious but less sanguinary than the English, was nettled, and replied : ‘ I don’t use the prisoners worse than you do in England, where you hang them up by dozens at a time.’ ‘ Very true,’ replied Howard ; ‘ but permit me to assure your majesty, that I had rather be *hanged* in England, than live in your German dungeons.’ He soon took his leave. ‘ In truth,’ said the emperor to prince Kaunitz, ‘ this Englishman is no flatterer.’

LORD HUNSDON.

310. LORD Hunsdon, a distinguished nobleman in the court of Queen Elizabeth, said, ‘ To have the courage to notice an affront, is to be upon a level with an adversary : to have the charity to forgive it, is to be above him.’

JOHN HUNTER.

311. THE celebrated John Hunter was a man of such wonderful diligence, that he has often told his friends, that for thirty years, summer and winter, the sun never found him in bed. He used to say, ‘ I never have any difficulties ; a thing either can be done, or it cannot. If it can be done, I may do it as well as another, if

will take equal pains. If it cannot be done, I will not attempt to do it.'

A GRAND IDEA.

312. THE chief of a small canton of Indians, upon the banks of the Mississippi in Louisiana, every morning as soon as he issues from his cabin, extending his arm and moving it, says, 'Thus I trace the path which the sun may describe in the course of the day.'

POPE INNOCENT VII.

313. ANDREA MARTENETI, a celebrated artist, painted by order of pope Innocent VII. the four Cardinal Virtues, with their opposite Vices. The pope not rewarding him as he expected, he said, 'Holy father, shall I paint one more vice, called *Ingratitude*?' 'Yes,' answered the pope, 'if you add another virtue, which is *Patience*.'

SIR JOSEPH JEKYLL.

314. Two very lovely, but bashful girls, had a cause of some importance depending at Westminster, that required their personal appearance. They were relations of sir Joseph Jekyll, and on this formidable occasion they desired his company and countenance at the court. Sir Joseph attended accordingly; and the cause being opened, the judge demanded, 'Whether he was to entitle these ladies *spinsters*.' 'No, my lord,' said sir Joseph, 'they are lilies of the valley; they toil not, neither do they spin; yet you see, that no monarch, in all his glory, was ever arrayed like one of these.'

DR. JOHNSON.

315. A YOUNG clergyman, very deficient in learning, complaining to Dr. Johnson, that some how or other he

had lost all his Greek ; ' I suppose,' said the doctor, ' it was at the time I lost my great estate in Yorkshire.'

316. The doctor treated Mrs. Siddons, when she called upon him in Bolt Court, with the most marked politeness. Frank, his servant, could not immediately 'bring her a chair ; ' You see, madam,' said the doctor, ' wherever you go, how difficult it is to find seats.'

317. While he was in the Isle of Mull, a very dreary and barren place, he saw something moving upon the ground, and asked Boswell what it was. ' A crow,' was the answer. ' What !' said the doctor, ' have you wings, and do you stay *here* ?'

318. Dr. Johnson insisted upon the necessity of the subordination of rank in society. ' Sir,' said he to Mr. Boswell, ' there is one Mrs. Macauley in this town, a great republican. One day, when I was at her house, I put on a very grave countenance, and said, ' Madam, I am become a convert to your system. To give you a decisive proof I am in earnest ; here is a very sensible, well-behaved fellow-citizen, your footman, I desire that he may be allowed to sit down and dine with us.' She has never liked me since this proposal. Your levellers wish to level *down* as far as themselves, but they cannot bear levelling *up* to themselves.

319. When he had finished a part of his tragedy of Irene, he read some passages of it to his friend Mr. Walmsley, who was registrar of the spiritual court. Mr. Walmsley objected to his having brought his heroine into great distress in a very early part of the play, and asked him, ' How can you possibly contrive to plunge her into deeper calamity ?' Johnson replied : ' Sir, I can put her into the spiritual court.'

320. Mr. Ogilvie, a Scotchman, diffuse in the praises of his native country, assured Dr. Johnson that Scotland had a great many noble and wild prospects.

Johnson,—‘I believe, sir, you have a great many. Norway too has noble wild prospects. But, sir, let me tell you, the noblest prospect a Scotchman ever sees, is the high road that leads him to England!’

321. The doctor, during his visits to Oxford, passed many hours with Mr. Thomas Warton in Trinity College, and was much pleased with the garden and library there. Some person expressed his preference of Christ-Church library. ‘Sir,’ said the doctor, ‘you may go to Christ-Church library to *prance*, but Trinity library is the place for *study*.’

322. It was a favourite maxim of the doctor, that the pleasure of mental or bodily exertion was only in proportion to the reward that would attend it. Sir Joshua Reynolds talked to him of the gratification he had felt in working hard to finish one of his pictures. Some ladies were present at this conversation. ‘Sir,’ said Johnson, ‘you had no pleasure in the mere work; you were looking to the final cause, for which you toiled.’ Then turning to the ladies in a courteous manner; ‘Possibly,’ continued he, ‘we may discuss this subject in a manner too abstruse to be intelligible to all of you, ladies; but, to make it more clear, you have only to recollect, that it was not for the mere pleasure of swimming, that Leander was so often induced to cross the Hellespont.’

323. Mr. Boswell talked to him of the expulsion of the six methodists from the university of Oxford.—Johnson said, that their expulsion was just and proper. ‘What have they to do at an university, who are not willing to be taught, but will presume to teach? Sir, they were examined, and found to be mighty ignorant fellows.’ *Boswell*,—‘But was it not hard, sir, to expel them? for I am told they were good beings.’—*Johnson*,—‘Sir, they might be good beings; but they were not fit to be in the university. A cow is a very good being in a field, but we turn her out of a garden.’

324. Mrs. Piozzi said of him, ‘that his attention to veracity was without equal or example : and when I mentioned Clarissa as a perfect character, ‘On the contrary,’ said he, ‘you may observe, there is always something which she prefers to truth.’ Fielding’s Amelia, in his opinion, was the most pleasing heroine of all romances.’

325. When the learned professions were talked of—‘*SCIENCE*,’ said he, ‘to put your behaviour under the dominion of canters. Never think it clever to call physic a mean study, or law a dry one ; or ask a baby of seven years old, which way *his genius* leads him ; when we all know, that a boy of seven years old has no genius for any thing except a peg-top and an apple-pie. But fix on some business where much money may be got, and little virtue risked. Follow that business steadily ; and do not live as Roger Ascham says the wits do—‘*Men know not how ; and at last die obscurely, men mark not where.*’

326. The following most severe epigram is said to have been written by Dr. Johnson *before* he was pensioned :

“Augustus lives in Maro’s polish’d strain,
And Spenser’s muse adorns Eliza’s reign,
The deeds of mighty George great Whitehead sings ;
God always forms the poets for the kings.”

327. A person endeavouring to prove to Dr. Johnson, that an atheist may be a man of a good moral character. ‘Sir,’ said the doctor, ‘when a man rejects his allegiance to his great Creator, what has he to restrain him from the perpetration of crimes ? If an atheist was to drink tea with me, I should look very carefully after my spoons.’

328. He conversed with sir Joshua Reynolds upon the subject of friendship. ‘If a man,’ said Johnson, ‘does not make new acquaintance, as he advances in

life, he will soon find himself alone. A man, sir, should keep his friendships in constant repair.'

329. Mrs. Thrale, who has endeavoured to display her own talents rather than to show off Dr. Johnson to advantage in her account of him, was rather of a diminutive size. One day she appeared in complete mourning, and solicited the doctor's approbation of her dress. For some time the doctor smiled at her vanity, and said nothing. Not deterred by his silence, she resumed the subject; and repeatedly asked, 'What do you think of my dress, doctor? what do you think of my dress?' 'Madam,' at length responded the doctor, 'your dress does not suit your figure: consider, you are an *insect*, and that of all insects the most gaily dressed are the most agreeable to the eye.'

SIR WILLIAM JONES.

330. DR. JOHNSON, with justice, styled him 'The most enlightened of the sons of men.' He was distinguished by his early great proficiency as a linguist. When he was in France, he was introduced at the court of Versailles with a curious speech. 'I introduce to your majesty,' said the English ambassador to the *grand monarque*, 'a gentleman who understands all languages, except the native language of his father.' It may be necessary to add, that his father was a *Welchman*.

BEN JONSON.

ST. JOHN'S college, Cambridge, may boast of the honour of part of his education. After he left the university, he passed through many occupations; for he was a bricklayer, a soldier, a player, and amidst them all a poet.

331. A vintner, to whom he was in debt, invited him to dinner; and told him that if he would give him an

immediate answer to the following questions, he would forgive him his debt. The vintner asked him, what God is best pleased with ; what the devil is best pleased with ; what the world is best pleased with ; and what he was best pleased with. Ben, without the least hesitation, gave the following reply ; which, as an impromptu, deserves no small share of praise :

“ God is best pleas’d, when men forsake their sin ;
 The devil’s best pleas’d, when they persist therein ;
 The world’s best pleas’d, when thou dost sell good wine ;
 And you’re best pleas’d, when I do pay for mine.”

JOSEPH II. EMPEROR OF GERMANY.

332. HE was a model of liberality, affability, and condescension. When he was at Paris on a visit to his sister the queen of France, in 1777, he honoured no one with a visit who did not experience his condescending manners and his bounty. He frequently said to those who were anxious to show their deference to his exalted rank : ‘ Be covered, you put me under restraint ; put on your hat, or I shall take off mine. Go not to the door with me, your time is precious. Tell me the truth, I seek to know it ; converse with me freely ; disguise nothing, for I wish to be informed.’

333. An old Austrian officer, who had a pension very insufficient for the demands of his family, explained to the emperor his indigent situation, and entreated his compassion ; saying that he had ten children alive. The emperor, wishing to know the truth of this representation, went to the officer’s house in disguise ; and, instead of ten, found eleven children there. ‘ This eleventh child,’ said the old officer, ‘ is a poor orphan that I took into my house from motives of compassion.’ The emperor immediately ordered a hundred florins to be given to each of the children.

KINGS OF ENGLAND.

WILLIAM RUFUS.

334. THE monarch who built the Tower of London and Westminster Hall must have had magnificent ideas. Although he was neither eminent for wisdom nor goodness, an instance is recorded of his intrepidity. He wanted to go to sea in stormy weather, and the pilot of the vessel in which he embarked expressed apprehensions of danger. He still persisted in his design. 'Did you ever,' said he to the pilot, 'hear of a king's being drowned?'

RICHARD CŒUR DE LION.

WHEN Richard Cœur de Lion first proposed a voyage to recover the Holy Land from the yoke of the infidels, Fulke, curate of Newelly a zealous preacher of the crusades, advised the king to get rid of his three favourite daughters: Pride, Avarice, and Voluptuousness.

335. The king's answer well illustrates the character of the times. 'You counsel well,' said Richard; 'and I hereby dispose of the first to the knights templars, of the second to the Benedictine monks, and of the third to my prelates.'

HENRY IV. OF ENGLAND.

336. A SERVANT of prince Henry, (afterwards Henry V.) was arraigned before sir William Gascoigne, lord chief justice of the King's Bench, for felony. The prince endeavoured to take his servant away, and came up to the bench with such fury, that the beholders thought he would have struck the judge. But he kept his seat, preserved his temper, and, without delay, committed the prince prisoner to the King's bench, there to remain till the pleasure of the king his father

should be known. An officious courtier ran to inform the king, probably thinking to move his anger against the lord chief justice for such an indignity offered to the heir apparent ; but great was his surprise at the king's observation. ' I thank God,' said he, ' for his great goodness in giving me at the same time, a judge who has the courage to administer the laws, and a son who has the disposition to obey them.'

HENRY VII.

337. SIR Robert Dimock, at the coronation of Henry VII., came on horseback into Westminster Hall, where the king dined, and casting his gauntlet on the ground, challenged any one who dare question the king's right to the crown. The king, pretending he was a stranger to the custom of giving such a challenge, asked a stander-by what the knight said. The answer was, ' He challenges any man to fight with him who dares deny your highness to be the lawful king of England.' ' If Dimock,' said Henry, will not fight with such a one, I will.'

338. Dr. Heylin, in his *Cosmography*, says, ' There goes a tale, that Henry VII., who had been brought up in a private manner in the country, being once pressed by some of his council to pursue his title to the crown of France, returned this answer, That France indeed was a flourishing and gallant kingdom ; but England, in his mind, was as fine a seat for a country gentleman as any could be found in Europe.'

JAMES I.

339. To his other titles he might have added those of King of pedants and professor of punning. He was as remarkable for his love of a pun, as for his hatred to a drawn sword or a pipe of tobacco. When he visited the university of Cambridge, he heard two noted

preachers, sir Isaac Wake and Mr. Sleep. 'I am inclined to *sleep*,' said he, 'when I hear *Wake*, and to *wake* when I hear *Sleep*.'

340. Elizabeth Weston, a young girl, was presented to James I. as an English prodigy, because she was deeply learned. The person who introduced her, boasted of her proficiency in antient languages. 'I can assure your majesty,' said he, 'that she can both speak and write Latin, Greek, and Hebrew.' 'These are rare attainments for a damsel,' said James; 'but pray tell me, can she spin?'

341. Among the addresses presented to James I. on his accession to the English throne, was one from the town of Shrewsbury, in which the loyal inhabitants expressed a wish, that his majesty might reign as long as the sun, moon, and stars endured, 'Faith mon,' said the king to the person who presented it, 'If I do reign so long, my son must reign by *candle light*.'

CHARLES II.

REPOSING upon the couch of indolence and sensuality after the dangers and the sorrows of his exile, he planned measures inconsistent with the liberty and the happiness of his people. He was the only king of England who was ever a pensioner of France. He pleased by the affability of his manners and the gaiety of his conversation, and seemed desirous to throw off the robes of royalty, and to forget that he was a sovereign.

342. This facetious monarch asked Dr. Stillingfleet one day, how it happened that he always read his sermons before him, when he was informed that he always preached without book elsewhere. The doctor told the king, that the awe of so noble an audience, and particularly the royal presence, made him afraid to trust himself. 'But in return, will your majesty give me leave to ask you a question too? Why do you read your speeches, when you can have none of the same reasons?'

‘Why truly, doctor,’ replied the king, ‘your question is a very plain one, and so will be my answer. I have asked my subjects so often, and for so much money, that I am ashamed to look them in the face.’

343. Gregorio Leti being one day at Charles II.’s levee, the king said to him, ‘Leti, I hear you are writing the history of the court of England.’ ‘Sir,’ said he, ‘I have been for some time preparing materials for such a history.’ ‘Take care,’ said the king, ‘that your work gives no offence.’ ‘Sir,’ replied Leti, ‘I will do what I can ; but if a man were as wise as Solomon, he would scarce be able to avoid giving some offence.’ ‘Why then,’ rejoined the king, ‘be as wise as Solomon ; write proverbs, not histories.’

344. Utility only can give value to the exercise of bodily as well as mental activity. When Charles II. saw a man climb to the top of the flag-staff on the pinnacle of Salisbury spire. ‘Odds fish !’ said he, ‘this man shall have a patent, that nobody may do this but himself.’

345. Of the climate of England, he used to say, ‘There were more days in the year, and more hours in the day, that a man could take exercise out of doors, than in any country he had ever known.’

346. The duke of Buckingham gave this character of the two royal brothers, Charles and James ; ‘That the elder could see things, if he would ; and the younger would see things if he could.’

347. Lord Rochester said of Charles II., ‘that he never said a foolish thing, and never did a wise one.’ When the king was informed of this tart speech, which certainly conveyed tolerably just ideas of his character, he observed, that the reason of the difference was this, ‘My conversation is my own, but my actions are my ministers’.

KING JAMES II.

348. HE said to the vice-chancellor of Oxford, ‘ I would recommend humility to your university, and that you should all preach by heart. The preachers beyond sea are all well accepted for so doing. You are indeed good scholars : but when you grow up, you grow lazy, and lose all you have gotten.’

349 A gentleman arriving at St. Germain’s where king James II. kept his court, went to wait upon him ; whereupon the king demanded what news from England. ‘ None very good, sir.’ ‘ Well, but how stands my interest there ?’ says the king. ‘ Why truly, sir,’ answered the gentleman, ‘ it is very considerable among the ladies, for I believe all the women of *easy virtue* are for your majesty.’ ‘ Ay,’ says king James, ‘ and if all the men of *easy virtue* there were for me too, I should soon be in the palace at Whitehall.

WILLIAM III.

350. WHEN almost a boy, as stadtholder, he withstood the formidable French invasion of Holland in 1672 ; and the opposite faction, and even his friends, asked what he pretended to. ‘ To defend my country,’ said he ; ‘ to make a stand in the last ditch, and to die there.’

351. When stadtholder, and engaged in a war against France, he formed the design of laying siege to Charleroy. He marched to execute this plan, which no one suspected ; when a very inquisitive colonel ventured to ask him some questions upon the subject. ‘ If I make you my confidant,’ said William, ‘ will you not communicate my designs to any one ?’ ‘ Most assuredly not,’ said the colonel. ‘ Heaven,’ replied William, ‘ is not so partial in the distribution of its favours as you imagine ; it has given me the power of keeping a secret, as well as yourself.’

352. Lord Molesworth, who had resided at Copenhagen as ambassador from England, published *An Account of Denmark*, a valuable work, and held in high esteem. In it he made some severe remarks upon the despotic form of the Danish government. The king of Denmark, offended at what he termed the insolence of the author, ordered his minister at the court of England to make a complaint to king William III. 'What would you have me do?' said king William, in answer to the remonstrance of the Dane. 'Sir,' replied the minister, 'if your majesty had complained to the king my master of a similar offence, ere now he would have sent to you the author's head.' 'This,' replied William, 'I have neither the power nor the inclination to do; but if you choose it, lord Molesworth shall insert what you have just now suggested to me, in the second edition of his work.'

GEORGE I.

353. On a journey to Hanover the coach of George I. breaking down, he was obliged to take shelter in the next country-house, which belonged to a gentleman attached to the Stuart family. The king was shown into the best room, where in the most honourable place appeared a portrait of the Pretender. The possessor in great confusion was about to apologize; when the king stopped him by saying, with a good-natured smile, 'Upon my word, it is very much like the family.'

354. Mr. P * * * * had killed a man very basely, and judge Dorrner, whose sister he had married, went to king George I. to petition for him; allowing, however, that nothing could be urged in alleviation of his crime, but that he hoped his majesty would save him and his family from the infamy his execution would bring upon them. 'So, Mr. Justice,' said the king, 'what you propose to me is, that I should transfer the infamy from you and your family, to me and my family.'

355. A German nobleman one day congratulated him on his being sovereign both of Great Britain and Hanover. 'Rather,' said he, 'congratulate me on having such a subject in the one as Newton, and such a subject in the other as Leibnitz.'

KING GEORGE II.

356. DURING the rebellion in 1745, the king came one day to the council chamber later than usual, and having asked the subject of the deliberations, was told they were taking measures to ensure the safety of his majesty's person. 'Take care of yourselves, gentlemen, said the intrepid monarch, 'for as to me, I am resolved to die king of England.'

DR. WILLIAM KING,

257. THE celebrated principal of St. Mary Hall, in Oxford, 1718. In vindication of himself from his enemies of the court, who attributed intrigue, if not treason, to him, he said 'I inherited a patrimony, which I found sufficient to supply my wants, and to leave me at liberty to pursue those liberal studies which afforded me the most solid pleasures in my youth, and are the delight and enjoyment of my old age. Besides, I always conceived a secret horror of a state of servility and dependence ; and I never yet saw a placeman or a courtier, whether in higher or lower life, whether a priest or a layman, who was his own master.'

358. Thomas Warton, in his *Triumph of Isis*, paid him the highest compliment on the Latin oration which he spoke in the Theatre at Oxford, on the opening of the Radcliffe library, in 1746.

The description does honour to the poet ; and it is here introduced, because it is one of the best poetical sketches of a public speaker extant :—

'See on you stage how all attentive stands,
 To catch his darting eye and waving hand :
 Hark ! he begins with all a Tully's art,
 To pour the dictates of a Cato's heart ;
 Skill'd to pronounce what noblest thoughts inspire,
 He blends the speaker's with the patriot's fire.
 Bold to conceive, nor timorous to conceal,
 What Britons dare to think, he dares to tell.
 'Tis his alike the ear and eye to charm,
 To win with action, and with sense to warm ;
 Untaught in flowery diction to dispense
 The lulling sound of sweet impertinence,
 In frowns or smiles, he gains an equal prize,
 Nor menaly fears to fall, nor creeps to rise ;
 Bids happier days to Albion be restor'd,
 Bids antient Justice rear her radiant sword ;
 From me, as from my country wins applause,
 And makes an Oxford's a Britannia's cause.'

SIR GODFREY KNELLER.

359. 'By Heaven I love you, Mr. Cock,' said sir Godfrey Kneller to Cock the auctioneer, 'and I will do you good ; but you must do something for me too, Mr. Cock : one hand can wash the face, but two hands wash one another.'

THE MODERN LACONIC.

THAT neither the laconic style nor the spirit that dictated it expired with the antient Spartans, may be proved by the following instances.

360. William the conqueror, as soon as he set his foot on English ground, burned his ships, and cried : 'Soldiers, behold your country.'

361. Henry IV. of France, previous to a battle, said to his troops : 'I am your king ; you are Frenchmen ; behold the enemy.'

The following instance of the epistolary laconic is beyond all competition :

362. Sir George Walton, admiral of the blue, was detached August 11, 1718, with the Canterbury and five other ships, after a Spanish fleet; and on the 18th he forwarded to admiral Byng the following letter :

‘Sir,—We have taken and destroyed *all* the Spanish ships and vessels that were upon the coast. The number as per margin.

I am, &c.

G. WALTON.

Canterbury, off Syracuse,
Aug. 16, 1718.

Taken.

Admiral Mari and four men of war, 60, 54, 40, and 24 guns; a ship laden with arms, and a bomb-vessel,

Burnt.

Four men of war, of 54, 44, 40, and 30 guns; a fire-ship and a bomb-vessel.

GENERAL LAMBERT

363. SAID very pithily, ‘That the best of men are not men at the best.’

Such a sentiment as this proves that apothegms are but confined to the wise men of antiquity.

LA LANDE.

364. THIS eminent astronomer, during the most perilous times of the French Revolution, confined himself closely to the pursuits of his favourite science. When he was asked to what happy cause he was indebted for escaping the fury of Robespierre, he jocosely answered, ‘I may thank my *stars* for my preservation.’

BISHOP LATIMER.

365. BISHOPS Latimer and Ridley were barba-

rously burnt alive at Oxford in the reign of bloody Mary. While the flames were gathering round their bodies, 'Be of good courage, Ridley,' said the intrepid Latimer, 'our persecutors will be disappointed, for our sufferings will lead men to inquire into the merits of that cause for which we suffer ; and this fire will light such a candle in England, as I trust in God's grace will never be extinguished.'

LE CLERC.

366. SOME person observed to this acute and profound scholar, 'I think *'De mortuis nil nisi bodum'* is a good saying.' '*De mortuis nil nisi verum,*' said Le Clerc, 'is a better.' 'Why so?' 'Because truth can do no harm to the dead, and may do great good to the living.'

BISHOP LEIGHTON.

367. Soon after the Restoration, when episcopacy was introduced into Scotland, Leighton was consecrated bishop of Dumblane. At his entrance upon office he gave an instance of moderation. Sharp, and other bishops, intended to enter Edinburgh in a pompous manner. Leighton remonstrated against it. 'How can these men,' said Sharp, with his usual vehemence, 'expect moderation from us, when they themselves imposed their Covenant with so much zeal and tyranny on others?,—'For that very reason,' answered Leighton mildly, 'let us treat them with gentleness, and show them the difference between their principles and ours.'

LESSING.

368. WHEN this celebrated German poet was received into the order of free masons at Hamburgh, one of his friends, a zealous free mason, took him aside into an adjoining room, and asked him, 'Is it not true, that you find nothing among us against the government, religion, or morals?' 'Yes,' answered Lessing, with

great vivacity, 'but would to heaven I had; I should then, at least, have found *something*.'

LICHSTENBERG.

369. LICHSTENBERG was asked what he thought of Lavater, the writer on physiognomy, the great translator of countenances. 'Lavater seems,' said he 'to forget, that the influence of climate, nourishment, disease, and other accidental circumstances, may produce in the countenance those lines and appearances which he lays down as the marks of vicious passion: and thus a rash and erroneous judgment may be pronounced at the expense of charity and truth.'

SIR GEORGE LISLE.

370. ONE of the bravest of the generals of Charles I. He was one of those who so nobly defended Colchester in 1648. The same day the rebel army took the place, he was ordered to be shot. When he was about to be executed, and thinking that the soldiers who were to despatch him stood at too great a distance, he desired them to approach nearer. One of them said, 'I warrant we shall hit you.' He replied with a smile, 'Friends, I have been nearer to you, when you have missed me.'

MADAM DE LONGUEVILLE,

371. HER friends advised madam de Longueville, who was a very virtuous and diffident lady, to go to court, in order to set the courtiers a good example. 'I cannot,' said she, 'set a better example, than by not going to court at all.'

LOUIS XI.

372. LOUIS XI. used to compare the nobility of his kingdom to so many Actæons. 'They are,' said he, 'eaten up by their dogs and horses.'

LOUIS XII.

373. THE king being told that a gentleman of his household had treated some farmers very ill, ordered his daily allowance of bread to be lessened. When the gentleman complained, the king asked him, if his short allowance was enough to support him. 'No, sire,' said he; 'for bread, you know, is the staff of life.' 'If it be so,' said the king, 'why are you so absurd as to treat those persons ill, who put that staff into your hands?'

A nation fond of glory will always honour the men of letters, who record and celebrate its triumphs.

374. 'The ancient Greeks,' said Louis XII., 'did little; but they ennobled the little they did by the sublimity of their eloquence. The French have performed many great things; but they have not the art of displaying them to advantage by writing. The Romans are the only people, who have had the two-fold glory of achieving great things, and celebrating them in a worthy style.'

LOUIS XIV.,

HOWEVER blameable for the fatal consequences of his unbounded ambition, united a considerable share of genuine good nature, with the most distinguished urbanity of manners: perhaps he was as complete a *gentleman* as ever lived. The following anecdote is one among numerous instances of his claims to this character.

375. He was one day entertaining a select party of his courtiers with the relation of a story, which he announced as extremely laughable; but on the entrance of the prince Armagnac, he suppressed a fine repartee which constituted the merit of the story. The king observed the disappointment of the company at this inter-

ruption, but said nothing till the prince was gone. 'Now, gentlemen,' said he, 'I'll conclude my story : ' which he did ; and the sequel produced an extraordinary degree of merriment. ' You see,' added the king, ' there was an oblique stroke, which would have affected the prince, and I suppressed it to prevent his being embarrassed ; for I would rather lose the praise of the *best bon mot* that ever was uttered, than give a moment's pain to any person whatever !'

376. The prince of Condé coming to congratulate Louis XIV. after a battle, in which he had commanded and gained great honour ; the king stood on the top of the stairs to receive him. The prince, being lame with the gout, ascended very slowly ; and stopping midway, begged his majesty's pardon if he made him wait. 'Cousin,' said the king, 'do not hurry yourself ; a person loaded with laurels as you are, cannot be expected to move very fast.'

377. Louis XIV. complained that he was often deceived in his choice of favourites ; he said, He had sought for friends, and had found only intriguers. His knowledge of mankind, which was the result of long and painful experience, induced him to remark, That, as often as he gave away a place, he made a hundred persons discontented, and one ungrateful.

378. When the duke of Anjou, grandson to Louis XIV., was going to take possession of the crown of Spain ; Louis, alluding to the removal of the obstacle that had prevented the harmony between France and Spain, said, 'The Pyrenees will exist no longer.'

379. Louis XIV. very rarely reproached any one. The marquis of Uxelles, in 1689, surrendered, to prince Charles of Lorraine, the city of Mentz, which he had defended for a considerable time with great gallantry. He came to court to give an account of his conduct, and was apprehensive of the censures of the king. He threw himself at the monarch's feet. 'Rise, mar-

quis,' said Louis ; ' you have defended the place like a man of courage, and you have capitulated like a man of abilities.'

380. The death of the queen affected him in the severest degree. ' Good God !' said he, when his attendants forced him away from her lifeless body, ' is it possible that the queen is dead ? and that I must for ever lose her, who never gave me pain but when she died ?' It is not easy to pronounce a funeral oration in fewer words.

381. He showed a feeling heart. ' When the abbé de Pompone had lost his father Simon Arnould, secretary of state, Louis wished to give him consolation, and share his grief. ' You lament,' said he, ' a father, whom you shall find in me ; and I have lost a friend, whom I shall never find again.'

382. He candidly confessed his ignorance upon literary subjects. He one day asked Racine what French writer had done most honour to his reign. Racine replied, ' Molière, sire.' ' I did not think so,' said Louis ; ' but you are a much better judge of his merit than I am.'

383. He was told that lord Stair, the English ambassador, was one of the best-bred men in Europe. ' I will put his politeness to the test,' said the king : and asking lord Stair to take an airing with him, as soon as the door was opened he desired him to walk on, and enter the royal carriage.' Lord Stair bowed, and obeyed. The *grand monarque* said, ' The world is right in the character it has given of this nobleman ; a person less polite than he is would have teased me with ceremony.'

CONJUGAL LOVE.

384. ELEANOR the queen of Edward I. had such an

affection for her husband, that when he was going to take his long and perilous voyage to the Holy Land, she could not be prevailed upon to stay at home, but resolved to accompany him, saying, 'Nothing must part those whom God has joined in holy matrimony : why should I tarry at home ? the way to heaven is as near, if not nearer, in the Holy Land, than it is in England, or Spain.'

MARTIN LUTHER.

SUCH was this great reformer's sternness of character, that he seemed unlikely to be attracted by the charms of refined accomplishments. Yet he was remarkably fond of music, and he composed several pieces that are truly sublime.

385. 'Whoever despises music,' said he, 'I am displeased with him. Next to theology, I give a place to music : for thereby all anger is forgotten, the devil is driven away, and melancholy, and many tribulations, and evil thoughts, are expelled. It is the best solace for a desponding mind.'

386. His imagination was glowing and expanded : 'When I behold,' said he, 'by the light of the moon, the beautiful azure vault of heaven, besprinkled with constellations of shining orbs, the prospect fills my mind, and I feel the highest gratification at such a glorious display of omnipotence. Melancthon wishes to know, where are the pillars that support this magnificent arch.'

387. He said of himself, 'My mind is indeed very hard ; but my core is soft and delicate, for I wish ill to no one.'

388. 'A man,' said he, 'lives forty years before he knows himself to be a fool ; and at the time he begins to see his folly, his life is nearly finished ; so that many men die before they begin to live.'

389. 'Patience is necessary in most things : I must have patience with the Pope ; I must have patience with heretics and seducers ; I must have patience with babbling courtiers, and with my servants ; I must have patience with my wife Kate. In short, the occasions for this virtue are so great, that my whole life is a life of patience.'

THE DUKE OF LUXEMBOURGH.

390. THIS general resembled the renowned Condé, whose pupil he was. He beat William prince of Orange in several battles, which caused William to express himself with great indignation. 'Is it impossible for me,' said he, 'to beat that little hunch-back Luxembourg ?' 'How should he know whether I am so or not ?' said the duke, 'for, often as I have seen his back, he never saw mine.'

LORD LYTTELTON.

391. A LADY, well known in the literary world, asked the elder lord Lyttelton, why he did not insert, in his *Life of Henry II.*, the tradition which makes that prince the offspring of an amour between the empress Matilda and her competitor Stephen. The noble biographer answered, 'My work shall never become the vehicle of antiquated scandal against a lady of rank and character.'

MACKLIN.

392. MACKLIN the comedian was much distinguished in acting the parts of Shylock and sir Archie Macsycophant. His favourite book was *Wanley's Wonders* ; and he used to commit a page or two of that curious compilation to memory, that he might have a striking anecdote ready to relate when he was going into company. The king once asked him how old he was. 'I

was born,' said he, 'in the *last* century, and hope to have the honour of playing before your majesty in the *next*.' He died in the year 1797, at the very advanced age of 107.

MAGNANIMITY.

393. MELIK the vizir of the Caliph Mostadi, gained a signal victory over the Greeks, and took their emperor prisoner. Having ordered the captive prince to appear in his tent, he asked him what treatment he expected from his conqueror. 'If you make war like a king,' said the emperor, 'send me back; if you make it like a merchant, accept my ransom; if like a butcher, put me to death.' The mussulman general dismissed him with honour.

MALHERBE.

HE was to France, what Pope was to England, the refiner of the poetical style: and such was the elegance of his versification, that he eclipsed his predecessors, and placed most of them in the shade of obscurity.

394. When any one began to talk politics to him, he declined entering upon the subject, saying, 'Is it not absurd, when you are only a common passenger on board a ship, to talk of the manner in which the vessel is steered?'

JOHN DUKE OF MARLBOROUGH.

THIS greatest of modern generals learned the rudiments of the art of war, while he served with the English auxiliaries, in the pay of France, against the Dutch under marshal Turenne. He afterwards turned the arts of his teachers against themselves, for he proceeded in an uninterrupted career of success, and completely humbled the pride of Louis XIV. Such was his con-

summate skill, and such his success, that he never fought a battle, but he won it ; and never laid siege to a town, but he took it.

So little indebted was he to the aid of learning for his pre-eminence, that he could scarcely write ; and yet so various were his talents, that his influence was felt in the council, as well as in the field.

395. It was a saying of his ; ‘ Give me ten thousand half-starved Scotchmen, ten thousand half-drunken Irishmen, and ten thousand well-fed Englishmen ; and, in spite of all the *grand monarque* can do, I will march from Boulogne to Bayonne.’

396. In the war of the allies with France, the deputies of the states of Holland presented obstacles to the plans of the duke of Marlborough and prince Eugene. The duke was once asked how it happened, that Alexander the Great, and many other heroes of antiquity, had in a very short time made such considerable progress in their conquests, and that now all that the greatest generals could do, was to take two or three towns in the course of a whole campaign. ‘ The reason,’ he replied, ‘ is sufficiently obvious : Alexander, and the other great heroes of antiquity, had never any deputies from the states-general in their camps.’

397. He conducted his army from the Low-Countries to join the Imperialists upon the banks of the Danube. The great Eugene, astonished at the excellent condition of his troops after a long and difficult march exclaimed, ‘ My lord, I never saw stronger horses, or soldiers better clothed and equipped. All this, however, can be done for money ; but money cannot purchase the courage which shines in your men’s countenances.’ ‘ If what you remark be true,’ replied Marlborough, it is easily accounted for : my soldiers know before whom they stand ; their intrepid looks are inspired by your presence.’

398. When the duke was told that an officer, whom

he had broke for ill-behaviour, would take some opportunity of privately doing him an injury, he replied : ' I am in no apprehension on that head, because I know him to be a man of courage.'

399. Some person abused the duke, in the presence of lord Bolingbroke, for his avarice. ' It is in vain,' said his lordship, ' you endeavour to lower him in my esteem ; he was so great a character that I forget all his faults.'

400. In the great battle of Blenheim, in which the English and their allies gained one of the most decisive and glorious of all their victories, marshal Tallard, the French commander-in-chief, was taken prisoner. In a conversation he soon after had with the duke of Marlborough, he assured him, that the French army was composed of the bravest troops in the world. ' No doubt they are, said the duke, ' with the exception of that army which had the honour to beat them.'

401. Great men are never angry at little things. The duke riding out with commissary Marriot, it began to rain, and the duke called for his cloak. Marriot had his put on by his servant immediately. The duke's servant not bringing the cloak, he called for it again, but he was still puzzling about the straps and buckles ; at last it raining very hard, the duke called again, and asked him what he was about. ' You must stay,' grumbled the fellow, ' if it rains cats and dogs, till I can get at it.' The duke turned to Marriot, and only quietly said, ' I should be sorry to be of that fellow's temper.'

402. King William is said to have declared of Marlborough, ' That he had of all men the coolest head with the warmest heart.'

MARY QUEEN OF SCOTLAND.

403. ONE of the Cecil family, minister to Scotland

from England, was speaking to her of the wisdom of his sovereign, queen Elizabeth. Mary stopped him short by saying, 'Pray, sir, don't talk to me of the wisdom of a woman; I think I know my own sex pretty well, and can assure you, that the wisest of us all is only a little less a fool than the others.'

404. When in the full bloom of her beauty, as she was walking in a procession in Paris, a woman forced her way through the crowd to touch her. Upon being asked what she meant by her bold intrusion, she said, 'It was only to satisfy herself, whether so angelic a creature were flesh and blood or not.'

This singular beauty was a principal cause of her misfortunes and her destruction. It excited the jealousy of Elizabeth, which could only be appeased by her death.

Mary, guilty as she was of crimes, was so lovely in her person, and so attractive in her manners, that all parties wished her innocent, and all concurred in pitying her sufferings. Her execution is an indelible spot upon the sun of Elizabeth's glory.

SIR JOHN MASON.

SIR JOHN MASON was born in the reign of Henry VII. and was privy-councillor to Henry VIII., Edward VI., queen Mary, and queen Elizabeth. He was a man of talents, and displayed great probity in very turbulent times.

405. On his death-bed he called his family together, and thus addressed them :—

'Lo, I have lived to see five princes, and have been privy-councillor to four of them. I have seen the most remarkable things in foreign parts; and have been present in most state transactions for thirty years at home. After so much experience, I have learned that seriousness is the greatest wisdom; temperance the best physician; and a good conscience the best estate: and were I to live again, I would change the court for a

cloister ; my privy-councillor's bustle for the retirement of a hermit ; and my whole life in the palace for an hour's enjoyment of God in my closet. All things now forsake me, except my God, my duty, and my prayers.'

MASSILLON.

406. 'THE person of Massillon,' said a French author of the last century, 'is still present to many. It seems, (say his admirers,) that he is now standing in the pulpit with that air of simplicity, that unassuming demeanour, those eyes humbly dejected, or nobly elevated, that impassioned tone of voice, that speaking countenance of a man penetrated with his subject, and conveying to the mind the most brilliant light, and to the heart the most tender emotions.' When Baron, the great French tragedian, was coming from a church where he had heard a sermon preached by Massillon, truth forced from his lips a confession humiliating to his profession : 'My friend,' said he, to one of his companions, 'this is an orator, and we are only actors.'

407. Every one was astonished at the pictures of life and manners which this sublime orator of the pulpit has drawn, as they are very faithful, vivid, and affecting. Some person asked him from whence a recluse, who lived so much a stranger to the world, could take them. 'From the human heart,' said Massillon ; 'and, if you examine it as carefully as I have, you will there find the seat of all the passions.'

THE EMPEROR MAXMILIAN.

408. An impudent beggar, on the authority of the words in the 12th chapter of Malachi : 'Have we not all one God our common father?' asked alms from Maximilian, addressing him by the title of brother. Not satisfied with the sum given him by the emperor, he continued to importune him for more. 'Retire,' said Maximilian to him, in a gentle manner ; 'for if all your

brothers give you as much as I have now, you will soon be richer than I am.'

SERJEANT MAYNARD.

409. SERJEANT MAYNARD, one of the ablest lawyers of his time, waited upon king William III. with the rest of that learned body, to address him on his safe arrival in England. William, not very politely, told serjeant Maynard, that he had outlived all the great lawyers of his time. 'Sir,' replied the serjeant, 'I should have outlived the law itself, if your majesty had not come hither.'

LORENZO DE MEDICIS.

THIS great and accomplished man, whose Life has been written with considerable ability by Mr. Roscoe, gave proofs in his early years of that quickness of mind which distinguished his mature age.

410. His father Cosmo one day presented him, when he was a child, to an ambassador, to whom he talked of him with the partiality of a parent ; requested the ambassador to whom he talked of him with the partiality of a parent ; requested the ambassador to put some questions to his son, and to judge by his answers, if he was not a boy of extraordinary talents. The ambassador was soon convinced, by conversing with him, of the truth of what Cosmo had told him ; but added, 'This child, as he grows up, will most probably become stupid ; for it has in general been observed, that those who when young are very clever, degenerate as they grow older.' Young Lorenzo, hearing this remark, walked gently to the ambassador, and looking him archly in the face, said to him, 'I am certain, that when you were young, you were a boy of a very great genius.'

411. Lorenzo being asked who were the greatest fools in the world, answered, 'Surely those who put themselves in a passion with fools.'

JOHN MILTON.

412. His *Paradise Lost* is an almost miraculous production, if considered to have been composed under the circumstances of complicated wretchedness produced by poverty, disgrace, old age and blindness. Addison cleared the way for its celebrity, by his excellent critical papers in the *Spectator*. It slowly rose to fame, but now has attained to its due ascendancy in the scale of our literature. Succeeding generations have fulfilled the prediction, which the consciousness of his own mighty talents prompted Milton to hazard :

*'At ultimi nepotes
Serique posterì
Judicia nobis æquiora forsitan
Adhibebunt integro sinu ;
Tum livore sepulto
Si quid meremur, sera posteritas sciet.'*

Lucretius and Milton were exceptions to all other poets in one respect ; they were very sparing of their flattery.

413. Milton is said to have valued himself more upon the production of his *Paradise Regained* than his *Paradise Lost*. This is like the blindness of some parents to the merits of their children, and their prepossession in favour of the least deserving. The public opinion is universally against that of the bard of Eden ; and it was well remarked by a critic, that we find Milton in *Paradise Lost*, but lose him in *Paradise Regained*.

414. It is said that an offer was made to Milton, of holding the place of secretary under the king, which he had discharged with so much ability under Cromwell ; but he persisted in refusing it, though his wife pressed his compliance. 'Thou art in the right,' said he ; 'you, as other women, would ride in your coach ; for me, my aim is to live and die an honest man.'

415. His third wife survived this inimitable poet in a state of widowhood nearly fifty-five years, dying at Namptwich in her native Cheshire, about the year 1729. She related that her husband, then completely blind, composed principally in the winter ; and, on his waking in the morning, would make her write down sometimes twenty or thirty verses. On being asked whether he did not frequently read Homer and Virgil, she replied, ' That he stole from nobody, but that the Muse inspired him.' To a lady who inquired who the Muse was, she answered, ' It was God's grace and the Holy Spirit that visited him nightly.'

416. Milton was passionately fond of music. Some time after his unfortunate blindness, hearing a lady sing finely : ' Now will I swear,' said he, ' this lady is handsome.' His ears were then eyes to him.

MODESTY.

417. It was a question, Who had spoken in the happiest manner of modesty. A French author calls it the shadow of a noble mind. St. Bernard styles it the jewel of manners, the sister of chastity, the guardian of reputation, the portion of all purity. Diogenes was a cynic philosopher, and therefore may be supposed to express himself coarsely ; but what description can be more appropriate or delicate, than when he called a blush the *colour of virtue* ?

LADY MARY WORTLEY MONTAGUE.

418. THIS lady, well known for her very pleasing Letters on Turkish manners and customs, when very young, wrote the following verses to *Truth* :

' Where, lovely goddess, dost thou dwell ?
In what remote and silent shade ?
Within what cave, or lonely cell,
With what old hermit, or unpractis'd maid ?

In vain I've sought thee all around,
 But thy unfashionable sound
 In crowds was never heard,
 Nor ever has thy form in towns or courts appear'd.'

419. As lady Mary was walking through the gardens at Stow with a party, she was much teased by an impertinent young coxcomb, who was continually making some foolish observations to her. On coming to one of the temples, over which there was an inscription, she took advantage of this opportunity to expose his ignorance and put him to silence. 'Pray, sir,' said she, 'be kind enough to explain that inscription to us.' 'Madam,' said the young gentleman, with an affected air, 'I really do not know what it means, for I see it is *dog Latin*.' 'How very extraordinary it is,' said lady Mary, 'that *puppies* do not understand their own language!'

SIR THOMAS MORE.

420. MR. MANNERS, who had but lately been created earl of Rutland, said to sir Thomas More, 'You are so much elated with your preferments, that you verify the old proverb,

Honores Mutant Mores.'

'No, my lord,' said sir Thomas, 'the pun will do much better in English :

Honours change Manners.'

421. When he heard any one of his friends at table censuring the conduct of others, he would interrupt him thus : 'Let any man think as he pleases ; I like this room very well, for it is well built, and very convenient.'

422. Of an ungrateful person he said : 'That man

writes good turns done to him in the dust, but even the least injuries in marble.'

423. To ease his thoughts when he was in prison, he said, 'he imagined that all the world was but a prison, out of which some one or other was every day called to execution.'

424. When he was lord chancellor, he sentenced a gentleman to pay a considerable sum of money to a poor widow, whom he had oppressed. The gentleman remonstrated, and said, 'I hope your lordship will give me time, and a long day, to pay so large a sum.' 'You shall have your request,' said the chancellor; 'Monday next is St. Barnabas, the longest day in all the year: pay the widow then, or you shall sleep in the Fleet the shortest night in the year.'

HORATIO NELSON.

425. WHEN a little boy, he was on a visit to an aunt, and went in search of birds' nests. He wandered so far, that he did not return till some time after it was dark. The old lady, who had been much alarmed by his absence, reprimanded him severely, and asked him how *fear* came not to drive him home. 'I don't know,' said the boy with great simplicity, 'who *Fear* is.'

426. His attachment to his friends was as ardent as his courage. When he was presented to the king at the levee, his majesty complimented him on his great actions; after this eulogium, he condoled with him on the loss of his arm. Nelson turned round to captain Berry, who had been the companion of many of his exploits, and introduced him to the king with this remark: 'My loss, I assure your majesty, is not so great as you may imagine, for here is my *right hand*.'

427. Of his confidence of what seamen can achieve, he gave the following remarkable proof, among many others.—When he was before Bastia in Corsica, he.

said, 'What the general (Dundas) could have seen to make a retreat necessary, I cannot comprehend. A thousand men would certainly take Bastia : with five hundred and my ship *Agamemnon* I would attempt it. My seamen are now, what British seamen ought to be, almost invincible. They really mind shot no more than peas.'

The event justified his boldness ; for 1000 regulars, 1500 national guards, and 4000 Corsican troops, laid down their arms to 1200 soldiers, marines, and seamen ! After the surrender of Bastia, 'I always was of opinion,' said Nelson, 'have ever acted up to it, and never had any reason to repent it, that one Englishman was equal to three Frenchmen !'

428. When he was going to the coast of Egypt in search of the French fleet, in his letter to lord St. Vincent he said : 'Should the French fleet be bound to the Antipodes, you may rely upon me, I will not lose a moment in bringing them to action.'

429. On the 1st of August 1798, captain Hood of the *Zealous* made the signal for the French fleet. For many preceding days Nelson had hardly taken either rest or food : he now ordered dinner to be served, while preparations were made for battle ; and when his officers rose from table, and went to their separate stations, he said to them : 'Before this time to-morrow, I shall have gained a peerage, or Westminster Abbey.'

430. Of his confidence as to the success of his mode of attack there is no doubt. Captain Berry, when he comprehended the scope of the design, exclaimed with transport, 'If we succeed, what will the world say ?' 'There is no *if* in the case,' replied the admiral ; 'that we shall succeed is certain ; who may live to tell the story, is a very different question.'

431. The victory of the Nile was one of the most complete and glorious ever achieved. 'Victory,' said Nelson, 'is not a name strong enough for such a scene ;

I call it a conquest.' Of thirteen sail of the line—nine were taken, and two burnt; of the four frigates, one was burnt, and another sunk.

432. *Impromptu after the signal victory of the Nile, admiral Nelson having previously lost an eye and an arm:*

'Frenchmen, no more with Britons vie,....
Nelson destroys your naval band,
Sees your designs with half an eye,
And fights and beats you with one hand.'

433. During his last command in the Mediterranean, his officers said of him, 'Old Nel is as brave as a lion, and as gentle as a lamb.'

434. He commanded the squadron that cruised off Toulon with astonishing perseverance from May 1803 to August 1805, during which tedious period he went out of his ship only three times, each of which was upon the king's business, and neither exceeding an hour. Once when the French fleet ventured in sight, he said, 'They are in high feather, and as fine as paint can make them. Our weather-beaten ships, if they dare to meet us, I have no fear will make their sides appear like a plum-pudding.'

435. With respect to the officers of the navy he had the most liberal opinions. Lord Barham gave him a list of the navy, and offered him his choice of officers, when he was going to take his last command. 'Choose yourself, my lord,' said Nelson; 'the same spirit actuates the whole profession; you cannot choose wrong.'

England never produced a hero who more entirely possessed the good opinion of the public than lord Nelson; and their love and confidence were founded upon their conviction of his matchless courage, skill, and devotion to the service of his country. (For his character at large see the *Elements of General Knowledge*, Vol. ii. p. 358. 7th ed.)

SIR ISAAC NEWTON.

436. He discovered and demonstrated the principle of attraction which sets the universe in motion. A person asked him by what means he had been able to develop the system of the universe. 'By making it,' he replied, 'incessantly the subject of my thoughts.'

437. His *Principia Philosophiæ* being made known to the emperor of China by the French missionaries, the emperor testified his approbation of that work in a letter written in his own hand in the Chinese language. As he had no doubt that the fame of Newton was spread over all the western part of the world, and every person there must know his residence, he directed the letter to *Mr. Newton in Europe*. This concise address was sufficient; the letter reached the great English philosopher; and he found, when it was translated to him, that it contained very lively expressions of esteem for him, and very high praise for his immortal work.

438. Newton had a great aversion to controversy, for he did not like to have the calm repose of his life interrupted by literary disputes. When his treatise on Optics were ready for the press, on some objections being made to it, he deferred the publication: 'I should reproach myself,' said he, 'was I to sacrifice repose which is a substance, to run after reputation which is only a shadow.'

439. He never disputed in company. When he had delivered an opinion which any one chose to controvert, he did not take the pains to defend it; but contented himself with saying, 'I believe, sir, if you will be at the trouble of examining my opinion, you will find I have very good reasons for it.'

440. He wrote a Commentary on the Apocalypse, in which he endeavoured to prove that the Pope was Anti-christ. 'He evidently,' said Voltaire, 'wished

by this work, to make a compensation to mankind for the superiority he had gained over them in other respects.'

441. No person has done more honour to the genius of Newton than Voltaire. He declared, 'That if a general assembly could be convened of all the men of talents who ever flourished, they would, without hesitation, assign the place of precedence to Newton.'

THE DUKE OF NORFOLK.

442. THE first Protestant duke of Norfolk, carrying the sword of state before James II. to his Popish chapel, stopped at the door. The king, on going in, said, 'Your father would have gone farther.' The duke answered; 'But your father would not have gone so far.'

FREDERICK LORD NORTH.

SUCH were his candour, affability, and pleasing manners, that he secured the esteem of those who differed most widely from him upon political subjects; and while they remained unconvinced by his arguments, they could not fail to be delighted with his facetiousness.

443. The lethargic tendency of his constitution was apparent in his early years. When he was a young student in Oxford, he attended the lectures in experimental philosophy; and one day, when an experiment was to be tried upon a cat with an air-pump, lord North apprehensive he should fall asleep during a considerable part of the lecture, said to his companion lord Dartmouth, 'Pray wake me when the cat comes.'

444. A stranger was conversing with lord North in a public room, and opposite to them was a party of ladies. 'Pray, my lord,' said the gentleman, 'who is

that large ugly woman I see yonder ?' 'That,' said his lordship, 'is lady North.' 'My dear lord,' said the gentleman, confused at his unfortunate observation, and making an effort to correct it, 'I mean the lady who stands next her.' 'That lady,' said his lordship, 'is my daughter.' The gentleman was now speechless. 'Come, come,' said lord North, smiling with his usual good-nature, when he observed his confusion, 'you have made an ingenious but unfortunate effort to get out of a scrape : I forgive you, for I believe lady North and I are as plain a couple as any in England.'

445. Hely Hutchinson, provost of Dublin college, was the most greedy of preferment of all the courtiers of his time. In addition to his provostship, he was receiver-general for Dublin, &c. &c., and actually solicited a majority in a regiment of dragoons. When application was made to lord North, then premier, to give this commission to him, his lordship observed, 'The provost is so craving, that if I was to give him the whole of Ireland, he would not be content ; he would ask for the Isle of Man for a cabbage garden.'

446. Very soon after he ceased to be premier, he received a present of a turtle. 'The person,' said he, 'from whom this comes, is too much a man of the world to throw away his favours designedly. This turtle is such a very fine one, that when he sent it to me, I am very certain he did not know I was no longer in office.'

447. At the close of life he was afflicted with the total loss of sight. At Bath he met colonel Barré, who had been his warm opponent in the house of commons, and was also blind. On being introduced to each other, lord North said, 'Colonel, you and I have often been at variance ; but I believe there are no people in the world, who, after all, would be more glad to see each other.'

DR. OGDEN.

448. A BLUSTERING Cantab endeavoured to justify the practice of profane swearing, in the company of Dr. Ogden, the excellent sermon-writer. 'At least,' said he, 'doctor, you must grant, that swearing gives the appearance of courage.' 'Alas, sir,' said the doctor, 'What is the *appearance* of courage! do not the little birds perch upon the image of an eagle?'

OLYMPIAS.

449. SHE was the illustrious mother of Alexander the Great. She was told that a certain young man had married a very beautiful woman; but that her character was doubtful. 'The bridegroom,' said she, 'has consulted his eyes and not his ears.'

GENERAL PACK.

450 ONE of the most famous divisions of Bonaparte's army was the 70th. It happened that the 71st British regiment, commanded by brigadier-general Pack, was opposed to it, and beat it. This gallant officer was afterwards asked the particulars of this affair; his account was, 'The French found us *one too many* for them.'

PÆDARETUS.

451. PÆDARETUS, a noble youth of Sparta, was a candidate for admission into the society of the the three hundred, a company who held the most honourable rank in Sparta. On being rejected by the electors, so far from expressing disappointment or chagrin, he went home in high spirits; and being asked the cause, said, 'I am rejoiced to find that Sparta possesses three hundred men better than myself.'

DR. PALEY.

452. A DIVINE most deservedly celebrated for his

acuteness of understanding, the soundness of his judgment, and the extent of his attainments, displayed in various moral and theological works. When a student of Christ's college, Cambridge, he was a member of the Hyson club, established by the wranglers of 1757. In a debate there one evening, on the expediency of making some alteration in the Church for the relief of tender consciences, Dr. Gordon, fellow of Emanuel, and afterwards precentor of Lincoln, an avowed tory, warmly opposing the arguments of Mr. Jebb the reformist, exclaimed to Paley, 'You mean, sir, to impose upon us a new church government.' 'You are mistaken, sir,' said Paley; 'Jebb only wants to ride his own horse, not to force you to get up behind him.'

453. Dr. Paley met lord Ellenborough, on the northern circuit, at Durham. Paley congratulated him on his recent appointment to the place of lord chief justice. 'Your lordship, said he, 'has risen higher and more rapidly than any man of whom I have lately heard, except *Garnerin*.' He alluded to the *aéronaut*, who was at that time astonishing the inhabitants of London by his lofty flights.

454. Speaking of the character of Falstaff, he remarked that, 'amongst actors it was frequently misunderstood. The fat knight was a courtier of the age he lived in; a man of vivacity, humour, and wit; a great reprobate; but no buffoon.'

THOMAS PENNANT.

455. THIS pleasing tourist always wore his own hair, and had a mortal aversion to a wig. Dining one day with an officer who wore one, Pennant made rather too free with the bottle, and a friend who was in company carefully placed himself between Pennant and the wig, to prevent mischief. After much patience, and many a wistful look, Pennant started up, seized the wig, and threw it into the fire. It was in flames in a moment; and so was the officer, who ran to his sword.

Down stairs ran Pennant, and the officer after him, through all the streets of Chester. But Pennant escaped, from superior local knowledge. A wag called this, '*Pennant's Tour in Chester.*'

PETER THE GREAT.

NEVER was there a monarch, and not often a subject more diligent, enterprising, and indefatigable. He regulated his time not by days, but by minutes; neither pains, danger, nor defeat dismayed him, or damped his courage. He always took the most extraordinary and the most effectual methods for the success of plans for the improvement of his native country. As he thought personal experience necessary in order to introduce discipline into his army and navy, he served as a common soldier, and worked as a ship-carpenter. He succeeded in all his magnificent projects. He found Russia barbarous, and he left it comparatively civilised.

456. When he sent his propositions for peace to Charles XII., that prince haughtily replied, 'I will treat with Peter only in the capital of his dominions.' When this answer was brought to Peter, he said coolly, 'My brother Charles is continually affecting to act the part of Alexander; but I flatter myself that he will not find me a Darius.'

457. He caused many excellent books to be translated into the Russian language, and among others, Pufendorf's Introduction to the Knowledge of the States of Europe. A monk, to whom this translation was committed, presented it to the emperor; who, turning over the leaves, exclaimed with an indignant air, 'Fool! what did I order thee to do? is this a translation?' Then referring to the original, he showed him a paragraph, in which the author had spoken with great asperity of the Russians, but the translator had omitted it. 'Go instantly,' said the czar, 'and execute my orders rigidly. It is not to flatter my subjects that I have

this book translated and printed, but to instruct and to reform them.'

458. In 1704, he took the city of Narva by assault. His troops in defiance of his orders sacrificed every thing to fire and sword. He threw himself into the midst of his mutinous men, rescued the women from their insults, and killed two of his soldiers with his own hands. He then entered the town-hall, where many of the terrified citizens had fled for refuge, and throwing his sword upon the table, 'It is not with the blood of your townsmen,' said he, 'that this sword is stained, but with that of my own soldiers, whose lives I have taken to save yours.'

459. He gained a complete victory over Charles XII. at the battle of Pultowa, on July 8th, 1709. He took many officers prisoners, among whom was Renschild, general of the Swedish army. He was conducted to the Russian camp, and invited to dine with the czar on the day of the victory.

When the czar expressed his surprise, that the Swedes had ventured to march into a country so distant from their own, and had laid siege to Pultowa with so small a number of troops; 'We have not always been consulted,' said Renschild; 'but as faithful subjects we obeyed the orders of our master without canvassing their propriety.' The czar turned to some of his courtiers, formerly suspected of being implicated in a conspiracy against him: 'Observe,' said he, 'gentlemen, how a sovereign *ought* to be obeyed.' Then filling a glass with wine, 'I drink,' said he 'to the health of our masters in the art of war.' Renschild asked him who had the honour to deserve a title so noble. 'Yourself,' replied Peter, 'and the other Swedish generals.' 'Your majesty is very ungrateful then,' said Renschild, 'to have treated your instructors so severely.' After dinner the czar ordered their swords to be restored, and behaved to all his prisoners with great condescension and kindness.

460. The voice of his empress Catharine was a charm sufficiently powerful to appease his rage. She, and she alone, could recall him to sentiments of humanity, to virtue, and to himself.

He sometimes blushed at his involuntary fits of anger, and exclaimed with confusion and grief, 'Alas! I am trying to reform my people, and cannot reform myself.'

MR. PETIT.

461. 'As your skill in your profession is so great,' said a person to Mr. Petit the celebrated French anatomist, 'why do you not cure all the diseases of the human body?' 'My skill may be great,' replied Mr. Petit; but unfortunately we anatomists are like the porters of Paris, who are well acquainted with all the streets, but are ignorant of what is passing in the houses.'

PHAVORINUS.

462. THIS philosopher maintained an argument weakly against the emperor Adrian. One of his friends said, 'You have not disputed with your usual strength of reasoning to day.' 'Would you,' said the philosopher, have me show my strength of reasoning, when I am contending with the commander of thirty legions?'

PHOCYON.

463. PHOCYON, the great Athenian general, having finished a speech was applauded by the populace. 'I fear,' said he, when he heard their acclamations, 'I have said something foolish.'

Did ever any of the *modern* orators, who are fond of haranguing the mob in Palace-yard and such places, read this anecdote?

PIGALLE.

464. IT would be difficult to find an anecdote recorded more honourable to the benevolence of an artist, or indeed of any man, than the following.—Pigalle, the celebrated sculptor, who had laid by twelve *louis d'ors* for a journey from Lyons to Paris, seeing a man who was walking with visible marks of deep-felt sorrow in his countenance, accosted him, and asked if he could in any way relieve him. ‘Ah, sir,’ exclaimed the stranger, ‘for want of ten louis, I must be dragged this evening to a prison, and be separated from my dear wife and helpless children.’ ‘Is that all?’ said the humane artist: ‘follow me, I can command the sum you want, and it shall be at your service.’ A friend who met him next day, asked if he had relieved the distress of this poor man, as was publicly reported in Lyons. ‘Yes, friend,’ said Pigalle, ‘and what a delicious supper did I make last night, upon bread and cheese, with his family, who blessed me at every mouthful they ate, and every mouthful was moistened with the tears of their gratitude!’

ALEXIS PIRON.

HE was a dramatic writer of considerable repute. His conversation was distinguished by repartees always quick and lively, and sometimes bitter and malignant. The exalted opinion he entertained of his own talents, induced him to exercise great severity upon the literary productions of others.

465. An indifferent but conceited author one day came to ask his assistance. ‘As I know you are a man of ready invention, and I want to write something original, pray suggest to me a subject for a work that has never been written upon before.’ ‘Write’ said Piron, ‘your own panegyric.’

466. When the *Semiramis* of Voltaire was acted the first time, far from being received with all the applause which the confident author vainly anticipated, it went off very heavily. As Voltaire was coming from the

play-house, he met Piron, and asked him his opinion of it. 'I think,' said Piron, 'you would have been very glad if I had written it.'

467. Piron had foretold the fate of a stupid play to its author, and the event justified his prediction. 'I have at least this consolation,' said the author, 'the audience did not hiss my play.' 'I believe you,' said Piron, 'for you know it is impossible to gape and hiss at the same time.'

468. A tragic poet read a work to him, in which he had been so great a plagiarist as to introduce several whole borrowed verses into his piece. While he was reading, Piron very often took off his hat. 'What is the reason,' said the pilfering poet, 'of your singular behaviour in taking your hat off so frequently?' 'My conduct,' replied Piron, 'is not singular; for it is always my custom to make a bow whenever I meet any of my old acquaintance.'

469. He was requested to make some corrections in his tragedy of Ferdinand Cortez. At the bare mention of corrections he flew into a violent rage. His adviser adverted to the example of Voltaire, who had at the public request repeatedly revised his pieces. 'There is a great difference,' said he, 'in the two persons; Voltaire is an embroiderer, and I make figures in bronze.' If this reply be not modest, it is certainly energetic.

470. The unbending temper and caustic raillery of Piron occasioned his expulsion from the French Academy. 'I cannot,' said he, 'compel thirty-nine men to think as I do, nor can I think with thirty-nine.'

471. He wrote his own epitaph in a style of humility, pointed with a bitter sarcasm against the French Academicians:

*'Ce fut Piron, qui ne fut rien,
Pas meme Academicien.'*

THE
FLOWERS OF WIT,
OR
A CHOICE COLLECTION
OF
BON MOTS,

BOTH ANTIENT AND MODERN,
WITH
BIOGRAPHICAL AND CRITICAL REMARKS.

BY HENRY KETT,
AUTHOR OF THE ELEMENTS OF GENERAL KNOWLEDGE

COMPLETE IN TWO VOLUMES.

VOL. II.

1825.

THE
FLOWERS OF WIT.

PART I. (*Continued.*)

*Bon Mots referred to their Authors, and the Names of
those Authors alphabetically arranged.*

WILLIAM PITT.

472. THE fashionable hours of the present times were neatly censured by him. 'Mr. Pitt,' said the duchess of Gordon, 'I wish you to dine with me at *ten* this evening.' 'I must decline the honour,' said the premier, 'for I am engaged to sup with the bishop of Lincoln at *nine*.'

473. 'Pray,' said the same facetious lady, 'Mr. Pitt, as you know every thing that is moving in the political world, tell me some news.' 'I am sorry, madam,' said the discreet premier, 'I cannot oblige you, as I have not yet read the papers of the day.'

474. This great statesman was known, when retired from public business into the circle of his friends, to in-

dulge in light and playful conversation. He even condescended to punning. When enjoying himself with a convivial party at Walmer Castle, the expected invasion of the French from the opposite shores was talked of, and one of his friends asked him 'What dependence can you place upon your Cinque-Port volunteers? for you know some of them are millers, and others are custom-house officers.' 'O,' said Pitt, 'these are the very men in whose military talents I can confide: every miller is a marshal *Saxe*, and every custom-house officer is a *Cæsar*.'

475. The duchess of Gordon expressed great pleasure at meeting him after a long absence, and asked him many questions. Among the rest—'Pitt,' said she, 'have you talked as much nonsense as you used to do, since we last met?' 'Madam,' he replied, 'I have not heard so much.'

476. Although not a profound classical scholar, he was sufficiently conversant with some of the best Latin authors, to make a most happy and impressive application of passages in their works to subjects in debate.

He was one day very closely pressed in the house of commons by Mr. Fox, to avow what was the precise object of the cabinet ministers in the war against France, and particularly, if it had an immediate reference to the restoration of the Bourbon family to the throne of their ancestors. Mr. Pitt candidly replied, 'With respect to myself, I have no hesitation to declare to the honourable gentleman, that as far as I am concerned, such a specific and definite object as that which he names, is the favourite subject of my thoughts; it is the darling object of my ambition, and its accomplishment would constitute the greatest glory of my life—To adopt the words of *Æneas*:

*Me si fata meis paterentur ducere vitam
Auspiciis, et sponte mea componere curas;
Urhem Trojanam primum, dulcesque meorum*

*Reliquias colerem ; Priami tecta alta manerent ;
Et recidiva manu posuisssem Pergama victis.**

477. *Impromptu on seeing the statue of Mr. Pitt placed above all the monuments in Westminster Abbey ;—*

‘ See the just image of his noble mind,
Dead, as alive, he soars o’er all mankind.’

CHRISTOPHER PITT, THE POET.

478. BENSON, who wrote a pamphlet to expose Dryden’s Translation of Virgil, was fond of the alliteration for which Pitt was remarkable. Pitt thought it an excellence far less considerable than Benson did ; ‘ But,’ said he, ‘ since you like it so well, this couplet upon cardinal Wolsey will not displease you :—

‘ Begot by butchers, but by bishops bred,
How high his honour holds his haughty head.’

PLATO.

THIS sublime and visionary philosopher adorned the simple precepts of his master Socrates with the flowers of his eloquence. His Dialogues are subtle and verbose in the extreme ; and his treatise on a republic is a romance ; of his acuteness in conversation, there are satisfactory evidences.

479. Plato was asked, when he thought all the people of the world would be happy. He replied, ‘ Either when wise men are kings, or kings are wise men.’

480. Diogenes paying Plato a visit, trod on his rich carpets with his dirty feet. ‘ See,’ said he, ‘ how I trample on the pride of Plato.’ ‘ True,’ said Plato, ‘ but with greater pride.’

PLUTARCH.

481. His advice to the unfortunate is very ingenious,

* Virg. *Æn.* 4.

and ought to be consolatory. 'Consider,' says the philosopher, 'you equal the happiest men in the one half of your life at least ; that half, I mean, which you spend in *sleep*.'

CARDINAL POLE.

482. IN a company where cardinal Pole was, the conversation turned on a young man, who was very learned, but very noisy and turbulent. The cardinal remarked, 'that learning in such young men, is like new wine in the vat, there it works and ferments ; but after it is put into a vessel, having gathered its strength together, it settles, and is quiet and still.'

483. Some letters were shown to him, that had been written to console a great man on the death of some of his friends. These letters were composed in the most pompous manner, and were adorned with all the flowers of a gaudy and affected style. 'I never read any letters,' said the cardinal, 'more calculated to answer the purpose of assuaging grief, for I defy any man to read them without laughing heartily.'

ALEXANDER POPE.

484. As he complimented all persons of title, so he did lord Bolingbroke in the highest style of adulation. He always spoke of this 'guide, philosopher and friend,' as a being of a superior order, that had condescended in pity to the moral wants of mankind, to visit this lower world. In particular, when a comet appeared and approached the earth, he told some of his acquaintance, 'It was only sent to convey lord Bolingbroke home again, just as a stage-coach stops at a door to take up a passenger.'

485. Once dining with Frederick prince of Wales, he paid the prince many compliments. 'I wonder, Pope,' said the prince, 'that you, who are so severe

upon kings, should be so complaisant to me.' 'It is,' said Pope, 'because I like the lion before his claws are grown.'

AN INFALLIBLE POPE.

486. 'WHEN I was at Cambridge,' said Mr. Fuller, 'there was a current but false report, that Pope Urban VIII. was imprisoned by his cardinals in the castle of St. Angélo. Whereupon a witty lad, a scholar in the University, said, 'Jam verissimum est papam *non posse errare*.'

PROFESSOR PORSON.

THE compiler of this work has reason to lament, that the hope he expressed five years ago,* 'That the talents and attainments of this extraordinary man would be duly appreciated by some able biographer,' has not yet been realized. The accounts that have hitherto been published of him, are hasty, meagre, and inaccurate. They may show the zeal of the respective writers, but they afford few proofs of the diligence of their researches, or of that expansion of critical judgment necessary for the full comprehension of such a subject as the richly gifted, and amply stored mind of Porson.

Porson could illustrate any topic connected with the wide range of his studies with so much information, and carry it to such an extent, as generally to surprise and often to instruct all the company around him. As different occasions called for the display of his talents, he was keenly sarcastic, drily humorous, or playfully gay. Imperfect recollection supplies the following scanty and perhaps inaccurate instances of his colloquial sallies.

487. He made this candid confession; 'When I

* Preface to the Elements of General Knowledge, edition the seventh.

was seventeen years of age, I thought I knew every thing ; as soon as I was twenty-four, and had read *Bentley*, I found I knew nothing.'

488. So far from lending an ear to flattery, he was averse to that praise which was justly his due. An author, to whom in the most obliging manner he had given some literary assistance, said to him : ' I wish to make you a public acknowledgment in the next edition of my work.' ' I decline your offer,' said Porson ; ' for you may say something in compliment to me that we may both be ashamed of ten years hence.'

489. Herman, the editor of a work on Greek metre, accused Porson of being very dogmatical upon that subject. This attack produced the following lines :

' The Germans in Greek
Are sadly to seek
Not five in five score,
But ninety-five more ;
All save only Herman,
And Herman's a German.'

490. A great admirer of Gibbon commended his style in very high terms. The professor listened to him, with a sneer of disapprobation, but for some time said nothing. On being pressed for his opinion : ' Gibbon,' said he, ' is too uniform ; he writes in the same flowery and pompous style upon every subject. He is like Christie the auctioneer, who says as much in praise of a ribbon as of a Raphael.'

491. Some person talked to the professor in the most exaggerated terms of the poems that had been published by sir James B. Burgess and P. Pybus ; and this puffer asserted, that they would obtain more fame in times to come than Homer, Virgil, or Milton. ' No doubt,' said Porson, ' they will be praised by all mankind, when Homer, Virgil, and Milton are forgotten,—and *not before*.'

PORTRAITS.

492. MANY persons have declined to have their portraits taken from pride, which sometimes assumes the dress of modesty. Monsieur Dassier the medallist, as well as De la Tour the painter, could not prevail on baron Montesquieu to sit for his portrait, till the former, with an air of pleasantry, said to him, 'Do not you think there is as much pride in refusing my request, as there would appear in granting it?' Upon this he presently yielded.

PRINCE CHARLES, commonly called THE PRETENDER.

THERE is sufficient evidence to prove, that the Pretender was in London in the year 1753. He appeared at a card-party at lady Primrose's; the servant observed how very like the stranger was to the picture of the prince, which hung on the chimney-piece in the room in which he entered.

He walked in broad day in St. James's Park, and was seen coming out, and was recognized by several persons, and among others by Dr. Smith, professor of geometry in Oxford, who mentioned the circumstance to several of his friends in Oxford afterwards.

493. Mr. Hume, the historian, told all he had heard upon the above subject to lord Holderness, who was secretary of state in 1753; and he added, that probably this piece of intelligence had escaped him. 'By no means,' said he; 'and who do you think first told me the Pretender was in London? It was the king himself: who added, And what do you think, my lord, I should do with him?' Lord Holderness confessed he was puzzled how to reply. The king perceived his embarrassment, and extricated him from it, by saying: 'My lord, I shall just do nothing at all; and when he is tired of England, he will go abroad again.'

This story ought to be generally known, as a remark-

able proof of the moderation and prudence of King George II.

PRIOR.

He was a skilful versifier, rather than an original poet, and possessed a happy facility of expressing the ideas he borrowed from his predecessors in neat and flowing rhymes. He showed much of the airy vivacity which marked the French poets of the same period, and like them, excelled in the pleasantries of conversation.

494. In a gay French company, when every one sang a little song or stanza, of which the burden was '*Bannissons la melancholie*;' when it came to his turn to sing, after the performance of a young lady that sat next him, he produced these extemporary lines :

*'Mais cette voix, et ces beaux yeux,
Font cupidon trop dangereux ;
Et je suis triste, quand je crie,
Bannissons la melancholie.'*

495. As he was surveying the apartments at Versailles, being shown the victories of Louis XIV. painted by Le Brun, and asked whether the king of England's palace had any such decorations ; 'The monuments of my master's actions,' said Prior, 'are to be seen every where but in his own house.'

496. When he was ambassador at Paris, he went one night to the Opera, and sat in the same box with a nobleman, who, as is the custom in France, sung louder than the performer on the stage. Prior burst out into violent invectives against the performer ; upon which the nobleman ceased singing, asked Prior very seriously the reason of his abuse, and assured him upon his honour that the person he exclaimed against had one of the finest voices in Europe, 'That may be,' said Prior ; but how can I have any patience with a fellow mak-

ing such a horrid noise, that I cannot have the pleasure of hearing your lordship ?

497. Towards the close of his life he became deaf, or at least thought himself so. When some person asked him, whether he had ever observed himself deaf when he was in office ; 'Faith,' replied he, 'I was then so afraid of my head, that I did not much attend to my ears.'

PSALMANAZAR.

498. He endeavoured to impose upon the public, by pretending to be a native of an island he called Formosa. One day as he was enlarging upon its beauties, a gentleman, who had no great relish for his flights of fancy, remarked to him : 'If this island be in the latitude you describe, the sun must shine perpendicularly down the chimneys, and put all the fires out.' 'O sir,' said Psalmanazar without any hesitation, 'the inhabitants are aware of this inconvenience, and so all the chimneys are built obliquely.'

DANIEL PURCELL.

499. He was a very determined nonjuror. He told a friend of his, that when king George I. landed at Greenwich, he had a full view of him. 'Then,' said his friend, 'you know him by sight.' 'Yes,' replied Purcell, 'I think I know him, but I cannot swear to him.'

THE DUCHESS OF QUEENSBURY.

500. The duchess was the patroness of Gay, and being fond of the company of his brother-wits, invited a party, consisting of Addison, Pope, Swift, and Arbuthnot, to dine with him at her table. Addison talked little ; and what he said was with such embarrassment, that he could hardly finish a sentence. Pope was the orator of the company ; his voice was shrill, and he

made many tart observations. Swift was in one of his odd humours, and was determined to tease the duchess ; so, as soon as the company were seated at dinner, he complained he had left his snuff-box behind him, and requested one of the servants might be sent for it. He soon after complained of the want of his tooth-pick case, and a second servant was despatched for that, which he described as an indispensable requisite to his comfort. He then complained of the want of his pocket-book, and a third servant was sent for that : in short, he contrived to have so many distinct wants, that not a single servant was left in the room. The duchess looked around, and seeing no servants ; ‘ Gentlemen,’ said she, ‘ we are reduced to such a state that we must wait upon ourselves. If I want a piece of bread or a clean plate, I shall rise and help myself, and you must do the same.’ Swift, finding his scheme of putting the duchess out of humour had failed, sat in sullen silence ; but Gay, a fat jolly figure, threw himself back in his chair in an immoderate fit of laughter, delighted at his mortification. ‘ I am now fully convinced,’ said he, ‘ of what I have often heard ; that her grace, our noble hostess, is the best-natured woman in the world.’

QUIN.

501. QUIN thought angling a very cruel diversion ; and on being asked why, gave this reason : ‘ Suppose some superior being should bait a hook with venison, and go a *quinning* ; I should certainly bite, and what a figure I should make dangling in the air !’

502. Quin told lady Berkeley, who was a beautiful woman, that she looked blooming as the spring ; but, recollecting that the season was not then very promising, he added, ‘ I wish the spring would look like your ladyship.’

503. A young fellow, whose talent lay in comedy, came to offer himself to the play-house ; and having given a specimen of his abilities, Mr. Quin asked if he

had ever played any parts in comedy ? The young fellow answered, ' Yes, he had played Abel in the Alchymist.' ' I am rather of opinion,' said Quin, ' you played *Cain*, for I am certain you murdered Abel.'

504. When manager, he kept a tragedy so long that the author called frequently ; and being very angry, Quin sent him to his bureau and desired him to take it. After searching for some time among several other plays, and not finding his own ; ' Well,' said Quin, ' be content—take two comedies and a farce for it.'

505. Being asked, what he thought of the conduct of the people of England with regard to the Bottle Conjuror, Elizabeth Canning, and the Cock-Lane Ghost ; ' The first,' he answered, ' was a proof of their ridiculous credulity ; the second, of their extravagant folly ; and the last, of their blind superstition.'

RACINE.

506. ' In one year I have written half a dozen tragedies,' said an arrogant scribbler to Racine ; but you have written only one tragedy in half a dozen years.' ' True,' said the poet ; ' but my tragedy was *Athalie*. Did you never read Esop's Fables ? Some one reproached a lioness that she brought but one young one at a birth. I allow it, she replied ; but that one is a lion.'

DR. RADCLIFFE.

507. ATTENDING an intimate friend in a dangerous illness, he declared, in an unusual strain of generosity, that he would not take a fee. At last when the cure was complete, and the physician was taking his leave, ' I have put every day's fee,' said the patient, ' in this purse, my dear doctor ; nor must your goodness get the better of my gratitude.' The doctor eyed the purse, counted the days of his attendance in a moment ; and

then extending his hand by a kind of professional mechanical motion, replied : ' Well, I can hold out no longer : *single* I could have refused the guineas ; but, all together, they are irresistible.'

508. He could never be brought to pay bills without much importunity. A paviour, after long and fruitless attempts, caught him just getting out of his chariot at his own door in Bloomsbury Square, and set upon him : ' Why, you rascal,' said the doctor, ' do you pretend to be paid for such a piece of work ? why, you have spoiled my pavement, and then covered it over with earth to hide your bad work,' ' Doctor,' said the paviour, ' mine is not the only bad work that the earth hides.' ' You dog you,' said the doctor, ' are you a wit ? You must then be poor, so come in :' and he paid him.

509. Amongst the many *facetiæ* related of Dr. Radcliffe, it has been noticed, that when he was in a convivial party he was very unwilling to leave it, even though sent for by persons of the highest distinction. Whilst he was thus deeply engaged at a tavern, a person called in order to induce the doctor to visit his wife, who was dangerously ill ; but no entreaties could prevail on the disciple of Æsculapius to postpone his sacrifice to Bacchus. Enraged at the doctor's obstinacy, the man, who was very strong, took him up in his arms, and carried him off in spite of his resistance. Radcliffe was at first much enraged, particularly as the circumstance excited much laughter amongst the spectators. Having cooled a little, however, before he was set down, he listened to the apology of the husband, who excused himself for his rudeness by the extreme illness of his wife ; he then exclaimed with an oath, in his usual manner, ' Now, you impudent dog, I'll be revenged of you, for I'll cure your wife !'

510. Dr. Radcliffe used to threaten some of his brethren of the faculty, ' That he would leave the whole mystery of physic behind him, written on half a sheet of paper.'

SIR WALTER RALEIGH.

511. THIS all-accomplished knight was author of The History of the World, the design of which was equal to the greatness of his mind, and the execution to the strength of his parts and the variety of his learning. Raleigh seems to have written for posterity, lord Bacon for the reign of James I. He said with great calmness to some of his friends, who deplored his confinement when he lay under sentence of death; 'The world itself is but a larger prison, out of which some are daily selected for execution.'

ALLEN RAMSAY.

512. THIS pleasing author of the pastoral comedy called 'The Gentle Shepherd,' wrote the following epigram, on receiving the present of an orange from the countess of Aboyne :—

" Now, Priam's son, thou may'st be mute,
For I can proudly vie with thee ;
Thou to the fairest gave the fruit,
'The fairest gave the fruit to me.'

RAPHAEL.

THIS artist, deservedly called the *Divine*, whose productions astonish and delight the world, lived only thirty-seven years.

513. He was once asked by what means he had reached such perfection in his art. His reply was, 'I think nothing that belongs to it beneath my attention.'

514. He possessed too much good sense and candour to take offence at any just criticism ; but he could not endure the censure of the presumptuous and the ignorant. Two cardinals, who had more good taste in wine than in pictures, observed him as he was painting the

faces of St. Peter and St. Paul, and reproached him for making their complexions too ruddy. ‘Gentlemen,’ said Raphael, not a little nettled at the petulance of their remark, ‘be not surprised at what I have done : I have only painted these holy apostles as they appear in heaven ; the colour you disapprove is the blush of shame on their seeing the misconduct of their successors, the present governors of the church.’

FRANCIS REGNIER,

515. An elegant French poet and translator, of the seventeenth century. He was a man of such inflexible integrity of character, that he was called the abbé *Pertinax*. Upon a particular occasion, a person high in office, from whom he had some expectations, pressed him to stretch a point so far as to tell an untruth. ‘If you do not comply with my request,’ said the great man, in an angry tone, ‘you will rue the consequences, for I am resolved to quarrel with you.’ ‘Whatever the consequences may be,’ replied Regnier, coolly, ‘I had much rather you should quarrel with me for my refusal of your request, than that I should quarrel with myself for complying with it.’

516. In his elegant poems, gaiety is blended with moral reflections. Among his short pieces there is one which he sent to a lady, with the present of a violet. The flower is supposed to address her in the following strain of sweet and delicate compliment :—

*“ Modeste en ma couleur, modeste en mon séjour,
Franche d’ambition, je me cache sous l’herbe ;
Mais si sur votre front je puis me voir un jour,
La plus humble des fleurs sera la plus superbe.”*

The Petition of the Violet.

“ Beneath the friendly hawthorn’s spray,
A native of the lowly vale,
I bashful shun the eye of day,
And with my breath perfume the gale.

Like you in modest garb attir'd,
 A foe to show and gay parade,
 Less seen, by all the more admir'd,
 I flourish in the rural shade.

O place me on thy snowy breast !
 Exalted to that throne of love,
 The humblest violet, so bless'd,
 The proudest of the flowers will prove.

SIR JOSHUA REYNOLDS.

517. HE managed his pencil with such consummate skill, that it had a kind of magic effect, and attracted around him the beautiful, the illustrious, and the opulent, who could never sufficiently recompense him for the elegance, grace, and spirit which he infused into their portraits. The evanescent nature of his colours has been a just subject of regret, and was the subject likewise of an excellent pun. The late duchess of Devonshire said, with an allusion to this defect, and to the success of the artist in a competition with some of his rivals, 'That Sir Joshua came off with *flying colours*.'

In the recent exhibition in Pall Mall, it was gratifying to observe, that in some of the pictures there was a tenderness rather than a failure of colours ; many are mellowed rather than faded, and have lost none of their spirit.

It is not easy to determine whether sir Joshua Reynolds is more to be admired as a painter than a writer. His thoughts are so just and noble, and his style is so terse and luminous, that his Discourses appear like the productions of one who had laboured incessantly in literary composition. Yet so numerous and so masterly are his paintings, that they appear to have constituted the sole business of his life. He has illustrated his theories of excellence by his own practice ; and well may the praise bestowed by Pope upon Longinus be applied to him :—

" His own example strengthens all his laws,
 And is himself the great sublime he draws."

He was as amiable as a man, as he was illustrious as an artist. His house was the resort of men of genius ; and he entertained them not more by his elegant hospitality, than he charmed them with the gentleness of his temper, the urbanity of his manners, and his rich and lively conversation.

518. It was one of his favourite maxims, ‘ That all the gestures of children are graceful, and that the reign of distortion and unnatural attitude commences with the introduction of the dancing-master.’

The following remark is worthy of so eminent, enlightened, and liberal an artist.

519. ‘ The only wages a real genius thinks of in his labour is the praise of impartial judges.’

520. To his own pictures may be applied what he used to say respecting those of Rubens : ‘ They resemble a well chosen nosegay, in which, though the colours are splendid and vivid, they are never glaring or oppressive to the eye.’

521. He was so deeply impressed by the transcendent genius of Michael Angelo, that in the last speech which he made as president of the Royal Academy, he thus concludes : ‘ I reflect not without vanity, that these discourses bear testimony of this truly divine man ; and I should desire that the last words which I should pronounce in this Academy, from this place, might be the name of Michael Angelo, Michael Angelo!’

522. In a party dining at general Paoli’s, the subject of wine-drinking was introduced, which sir Joshua defended : and Boswell at that time drinking water, in imitation of Dr. Johnson, the latter exclaimed, ‘ Boswell is a bolder combatant than sir Joshua ; he argues for wine without the help of wine, but sir Joshua with it.’ Sir Joshua replied, ‘ But to please one’s company is a strong motive.’ Johnson, supposing many in the company to be elevated, exclaimed, ‘ I won’t argue

any more with you, sir ; you are too far gone.' Sir Joshua mildly answered, ' I should have thought so indeed, sir, had I made such a speech as you have now done. ' On this Johnson drew himself up, blushing, as Boswell describes him, and said, ' Nay don't be angry, I did not mean to offend you.'

523. The bishop of St. Asaph, as he was sitting to sir Joshua, asked him how it was that Garrick had not been able to make any excellent players with all his instructions. ' Partly,' replied sir Joshua, ' because they all imitate him, and then it becomes impossible ; as this is like a man resolving to walk always behind another ; and whilst this resolution lasts, it is impossible he should ever be on a pace with him.'

524. His delicacy of conduct was remarkable. Mr. Burke remarked to him the peculiar advantages which certain situations gave to those who chose to make use of them. ' For instance ; you who are so much in private with persons of the highest rank and power, when they are sitting for their pictures, at moments also when they are at leisure and in good humour, might obtain favours from them, which would give you a patronage almost equal to that of a prime minister.' ' There is some truth in what you say,' answered sir Joshua ; ' but how could I presume to ask favours from those, to whom I became known only by my obligations to them ?'

JONATHAN RICHARDSON, Junior.

525. LORD CHESTERFIELD said, in a debate in the house of lords, to the lord that sat next him, ' that he could put the nation in a way to be never more in fear of the Pretender's succeeding to the crown, viz. by making him elector of Hanover ; for that we should be sure never to send for any body over from thence again.' Richardson said, ' That though he thought this had as much wit as any bon-mot he had ever heard, yet he believed lord Chesterfield had more wit than to say it.'

CARDINAL RICHELIEU.

526. AN officious informer came to tell cardinal Richelieu of certain free expressions that some persons had used in speaking of him. 'Why how now!' said the cardinal; 'do you dare to come and call me all these names to my face under pretence of their having been said by honest gentlemen?' and, ringing his bell, said to the page in waiting, 'Kick that fellow down stairs.'

HYACINTHUS RIGAUD,

527. A CELEBRATED painter. Although he was a man who had a turn for gallantry, he was not very fond of painting ladies. 'If,' said he, 'I represent them exactly as they are, they will not think themselves handsome enough; and if I flatter them excessively, then their pictures will not be like them.'

528. A lady who rouged very highly, and whose likeness he had taken, complained that he did not use good colours for her picture, and asked him where he bought them. 'I believe, madam,' said he, 'you and I both deal at the same shop.'

SIR GEORGE ROOKE.

529. WHEN the gallant sir George Rooke was making his will, some of his friends expressed their surprise that he had so little to leave. 'It is true,' said the noble admiral, 'I do not leave much; but what I do bequeath was honourably gained: for it never cost a sailor a tear, nor the nation a farthing.'

ROUSSEAU.

Letter from Frederick of Prussia.

530. 'Come, dear Rousseau; I offer you a house, a pension, and liberty.'

The Answer of Rousseau.

'Your majesty offers me an asylum, and promises me liberty : but you have a sword, and you are a king. You offer a pension to me, who never did you any good ; but have you bestowed one on each of the brave men who have lost either a leg or an arm in your service ?'

DR. ROSE.

531. It was an annual custom for Dr. Johnson's bookseller to invite his authors to dine with him ; and it was on such an occasion that Dr. Johnson and Dr. Rose of Chiswick met, when a dispute began on the pre-eminence of English to Scotch writers. In the course of conversation, Warburton's name was mentioned ; when Dr. Rose observed, 'What a proud imperious man he was !' Dr. Johnson answered, 'Sir, so he was ; but he possessed more learning than has been imported from Scotland since the days of Buchanan.' Dr. Rose, after enumerating several Scotch authors, said, 'What think you of David Hume, sir ?' 'He was a deistical scribbling fellow,' was the answer. 'Well, be it so ; but what think you of lord Bute ?' *Johnson*—'I did not know that he ever wrote any thing.' *Rose*—'No ! I think he has written one line, that has outdone any thing that Shakspeare or Milton or any one else ever wrote.' *Johnson*—'Pray what was that, sir ?' *Rose*—'It was when he wrote an order for your pension, sir.' Johnson, who was quite confounded, exclaimed, 'Why, that was a very fine line to be sure, sir.'

SIR PETER PAUL RUBENS.

This greatest painter of the Flemish school was honoured by the friendship of many kings and princes ; for he was an able statesman and an accomplished scholar. He was twice married ; his second wife was Helena Forment, a lady of exquisite beauty, who serv-

ed him as a model when he painted the Virtues and the Graces. He resided at Antwerp, in a superb mansion, the front of which he adorned with paintings in fresco. Between the court and the garden of this house he built a rotunda, which he enriched with statues, busts, antique vases, pictures of the best masters, and ancient coins and medals. He received the visits of several sovereign princes ; and all strangers of taste resorted to do him homage. He admitted these visits the more readily, as they did not interfere with the course of his occupations. He worked with such facility, that it was his custom to have a person read to him, while he was painting, the most celebrated authors, and particularly the poets. He was so well convinced of the assistance which even the most fertile imagination can derive from poetry, that he made a collection of the finest passages of the poets, and he frequently perused them before he began any of his great works. He was not ignorant that the genius of Homer had kindled the invention of Phidias, when he gave to his Jupiter that sublime character, which made his statue the admiration of antiquity.

532. Although Rubens was employed as an ambassador, and had other lucrative appointments, yet he acknowledged that to his art of painting he was indebted for all his riches. An English chemist came one day to visit him, and promised to share with him the treasures of his secret, if he would be at the expense of building a laboratory. After giving a patient hearing to the whims of this projector, Rubens took him into his painting-room. 'You come to me,' said he, 'much too late : twenty years ago I found the philosopher's stone with this palette and these pencils.'

BISHOP RUNDLE.

His candour and his sense of duty made him despise the arts of dissimulation, too prevalent among those who frequent a court.

533. Queen Caroline pressed him to tell her of her faults. 'If it so please your majesty,' said he, 'I will tell you of one. Persons come from all parts of the kingdom to see your majesty when you attend Whitehall chapel. It is therefore to be lamented, that you talk so much to the king during divine service.'— 'Thank you, my lord bishop,' said the queen; 'now tell me of another of my faults. 'That I will do,' said he, 'with great pleasure at some future time; but first correct that I have just mentioned.'

PUBLIUS RUTILIUS.

534. HE was influenced by the inflexible integrity of a genuine Roman. A friend made an improper request to him, which he refused to grant. 'What,' said the indignant petitioner, 'is the use of your friendship, if you do not comply with my wishes?' 'And what would be the value of my friendship,' said Rutilius, 'if I were to consent to that which is dishonourable?'

SADI.

535. THIS celebrated philosopher and poet was born at Schiras, in Persia, and flourished in the twelfth century. He made use of the most pleasing apologies to convey religious and moral instruction. 'I was walking with a friend,' said Sadi, 'in the heat of the day, in a grove of trees that formed an arch of foliage so thick as completely to exclude the rays of the meridian sun; a clear stream meandered at our feet, and enlivened the beautiful verdure of the grassy carpet, and all these charms of nature invited us to repose. I saw a wicked man asleep in this delightful place. 'Great God!' said I, 'does not the consciousness of his crimes prevent his rest?' My friend heard me, and said, 'God gives sleep to the bad, in order that the good may be undisturbed.''

536. One day, when I was in the bath, a friend gave me a piece of scented clay. I took it, and said to

it, 'Art thou musk, or ambergris? for I am charmed with thy delightful perfume.' It answered, 'I was a despicable piece of clay; but I was some time in company with the rose, the sweet quality of my companion was communicated to me, otherwise I should have been only a piece of earth, as I appear to be.'

537. Conversing with a philosopher, I asked him from what persons he had derived his knowledge, which was peculiarly accurate and solid. 'From the *blind*,' he replied; 'because they never lift up their feet without first sounding with their sticks the ground upon which they intend to tread.'

SANTEUIL.

538. A FAIR lady to whom the poet Santeuil owed a sum of money, met him one day, and asked him why he did not visit her as formerly. 'Is it,' said she, 'because you are in my debt? No madam, that is not what prevents me; but you are yourself the cause that you are not paid.' 'How so?' said the lady. 'It is,' continued the poet, 'because when I see you, I *forget* every thing else.'

539. A certain clergyman preached at St. Merry, and did not please his audience. Santeuil, who was present, said, 'This preacher did much better last year,' Some one observed, 'How so? he did not preach at all last year.' 'For that very reason,' said Santeuil, 'he did much better.'

PETER PAUL SARPI.

540. HE was honoured by the learned for his great abilities and erudition, and by the good for his integrity. He ably defended the cause of the senate of Venice against the claims of the Pope to infallibility, and to a power paramount to all other human authority. Compelled by various conspiracies of the vindictive

papists to confine himself to his convent in Venice, he wrote the History of the Council of Trent, esteemed a model of historical composition. Convinced of the corruption of the court of Rome, and the artifices of its emissaries, he said, 'There is nothing more desirable than to abolish the institution of the Jesuits: the church of Rome will be involved in their ruin; and if Rome be ruined, religion will reform of itself.'

541. In his last illness, which was caused by a wound from a stiletto, said to be inflicted by an emissary from the court of Rome, he received a visit from the doge and senate of Venice. He had merely strength enough to raise himself up in his bed, at their entrance into his apartment; and, with his hands clasped together, and his eyes lifted towards heaven, he exclaimed with his expiring breath, alluding to his dear native city, '*Esto perpetua.*'

SIR HENRY SAVIL.

542. 'PRAY, sir Henry,' said the earl of Essex, 'what is your opinion of poets?' 'I think them,' said sir Henry, 'the best writers, next to those that write prose.'

THE APPLICATION OF SCRIPTURE.

THE application of passages taken from the holy Scriptures to common subjects are in general to be censured; but in some cases they are so ingenious, particularly when one is retorted upon another, that we cannot help admiring them.

543. When John duke of Anjou approached Naples, at the head of a great army, to besiege that place, he caused these words, taken from the Gospel of St. John, to be inscribed on his standards. '*Fuit missus cui nomen erat Johannes.*' Alphonso king of Aragon, who defended the city, answered him by another passage, which he caused to be put upon his standards, taken

from the same chapter : ‘ *Ipse venit, et non receperunt eum.*’

The following is perhaps one of the neatest allusive retorts of this kind that ever was made.

544. Mr. Danez was sent by the court of France to the council of Trent, wherein he made a vehement speech against the court of Rome, and in favour of the reformation of the church. As soon as he had finished, an Italian prelate said, with an expression of contempt, ‘ *Gallus cantat.*’ Mr. Danez instantly exclaimed, ‘ *Utinam ad Galli cantum Petrus resipisceret !*’

SECRECY.

545. SIR THOMAS POPE, the founder of Trinity College in the university of Oxford, took this sentence for the motto of his arms, ‘ *Quod tacitum velis, nemini, dixeris ;*’ and experience proves the wisdom of the caution it conveys. He well knew the weakness of mankind, and how eager many are to disclose all they are told, even at the risk of safety and the expense of honour.

546. Demetrius the son of Antigonius the Great, asked his father on what day he intended to give the enemy battle. ‘ Are you afraid,’ said he, ‘ my son, that you will not hear the sound of the trumpet ?’

547. In the war of the French revolution, in 1794, the king of Prussia, the duke of Brunswick, and general Clairfait, made a combined, and, as they thought, a most unexpected attack upon the republican army ; but, to their great surprise, they found their enemies were fully prepared for them, ranged in regular order of battle, and gave them such a warm reception that they were obliged to retreat with considerable loss. At a council of war held immediately afterwards, in which the above mentioned persons were present, general Clairfait, fixing his eyes steadily on the king of

Prussia, said, 'one of us three is a traitor.' 'How so?' said the king, looking confused. 'I repeat,' said the general, 'that one of us three is a traitor, or our well-concerted plan could not possibly have failed of success.' 'I can assure you,' said the king of Prussia, 'that I never whispered a word upon the subject to any human being, *except to madame de R * * * **.' 'What a faithless counsellor, or rather what a perfect novice in the ways of the world, you must be!' exclaimed the enraged general Clairfait. 'Could you possibly have taken a more effectual method to sacrifice us to the French army, than by blabbing our secret to a Frenchwoman?'

SIR CHARLES SEDLEY.

548. JAMES II. had created miss Sedley his mistress, the daughter of sir Charles Sedley, countess of Dorchester. Sir Charles was, however, instrumental in the revolution which placed William and Mary on the throne. Being reproached for this conduct, as a proof of ingratitude to James, who had ennobled his daughter, he answered: 'He has made my daughter a countess; and how can I show my gratitude better than by making his daughter a queen?'

GEORGE SELWYN.

549. Two men, of the names of *Fox* and *Burke*, were hanged one morning at Tyburn. George Selwyn, who was remarkably fond of attending the executions of criminals, was asked by the two great orators of the above names, of whom he was not fond, whether he had been present at Tyburn to see Fox and Burke turned off. 'No,' said he 'for I don't think it worth while to attend *rehearsals*.'

550. George Selwyn travelling in a stage coach was interrupted by the frequent impertinence of a companion, who was constantly teasing him with questions, and

asking him how he did. 'How are you now, sir?' said the impertinent. 'Very well,' said George Selwyn; 'and I intend to continue so all the rest of the journey.'

551. 'How does your new-purchased horse *answer?*' said the late duke of Cumberland to George Selwyn, 'I really don't know,' replied George, 'for I never asked him a question.'

SENECA.

552. THIS acute philosopher soon discovered the natural cruelty of his pupil Nero; but knowing that the stubbornness of some dispositions might be softened, he endeavoured to correct what he could not change. With this view he wrote his treatise on *Clemency*. Seneca, apprehensive that Nero was going to sacrifice several noble Romans to his suspicions, had the courage to say to him, 'Whatever be the number of persons you put to death, know that you cannot kill your *successor*.'

LORD SHAFTESBURY.

553. THE Life of this nobleman, in the *Biographia Britannica*, is a kind of Panegyric, rather than a history of him. Fear of his sovereign did not damp the freedom of his wit. Charles II. said to him, 'Shaftesbury, I believe thou art the wickedest man in England.' He bowed, and replied, 'For a *subject*, sir, perhaps I am.'

SHAKSPEARE.

EVERY additional anecdote of this incomparable dramatist is to be the more highly valued, because the details of his biographers are so scanty. John Aubrey, who was a diligent collector of the *Memorabilia* of many eminent Englishmen, gives the following sketch

of Shakspeare, which is the more curious, as he lived so near his time.

554. Aubrey says that 'Shakspeare was a handsome well-shaped man, very good company, and of a very readie and pleasant smooth witt. One time as he was at the tavern at Stratford-upon-Avon, one Combes, an old rich usurer, was to be buryed, he makes there this extemporary epitaph :—

'Ten in the hundred the devil allows
But Combes will have twelve he swears and vows ;
If any one asks who lives in this tombe,
Hoh ! quoth the devil, 'tis my John o Combe.'

555. Shakspeare was wont to say that he never blotted out a line in his life : said Ben Jonson, I wish he had blotted out a thousand.'

The following anecdote is taken from a manuscript by Mr. Le Strange, preserved in the British museum. Reluctant as we must be to 'lose one drop of this immortal man,' we confess that the joke which is intended to give a point to the anecdote, is infinitely below his genius, even in its most idle and careless play. Our great inducement to insert it is, that probably it never before appeared in a collection of this kind ; and it proves that Shakspeare and Ben Jonson were once on terms of intimacy, however cold and jealous the latter became in a subsequent period of life.

556. 'Shakspeare was god-father to one of Ben Jonson's children ; and after the christening being in a deepe study, Jonson came to cheer him up, and ask'd him why he was so melancholy. 'No faith, Ben,' says he, 'not I ; but I have beene considering a great while, what should be the fittest gift for me to bestow upon my god-child, and I have resolved at last.' 'I pr'y thee what ?' says he. 'I' faith Ben, I'll give him a dozen good *latten spoons*, and thou shalt *translate* them.'

DR. SHARP.

Dr. SHARP, of Hart Hall, Oxford, had a trick of repeating, in almost every sentence he spoke, the words *I say*. To his friend, who ridiculed him for the practice, he made the following speech,

‘I say they say you say I say I say ;
I say, what if I do say I say ?
I say, what business have you to say I say ?’

DR. THOMAS SHAW.

558. THE improvement a person derives from his travels, evinces the great inferiority of common prejudices. Dr. Thomas Shaw, an Oxford divine, was an eminent traveller. On his return to England from the East, he happened to be in a company where the conversation turned on the luxuries of the table. A gentleman remarked, that he thought English dishes superior to those of any other country. ‘You show your contracted notions of good living,’ said Dr. Shaw, ‘by this remark : had you fortunately been with me in the kingdom of Morocco, you would have improved your taste ; for there I feasted upon *bear soup, stewed serpents, and lion cutlets cabobb’d.*’

DR. SHERIDAN.

559. THERE was a mutual attachment between the doctor and miss Mac Faden. He called one morning to take leave of her for a few days, before he set out on a journey. She asked him, in a tone of voice that well expressed more than the words that accompanied it, how long he intended to stay away : to which he immediately answered,

‘You ask how long I’ll stay from thee,
Suppress those rising fears,
If you should reckon time like me,
Perhaps ten thousand years.’

MR. SHERIDAN.

560. WHEN Mr. Pitt was very young in office, several angry altercations took place between him and Mr. Sheridan in the debates in the house of commons. He once said to Sheridan, 'You had better withdraw your attention from politics, and direct it exclusively to the stage, where the display of your abilities cannot fail to amuse the public.' Sheridan was piqued at this professional allusion; and instantly replied, 'If I do turn my attention to the stage, I cannot be at a loss for a diverting character; I will certainly, in compliment to you, revive the part of the angry boy in the old play of the Alchemist.'

561. When the School for Scandal was first acted, Mr. Cumberland was asked to give his opinion of it. 'I am astonished,' said he, 'that the town can be so completely mistaken as to think there is either wit or humour in this comedy: I went to see it, and it made me as grave as a judge.' This singular opinion was reported to Sheridan. 'Mr. Cumberland,' said he, 'is very ungrateful; for when I went to see his tragedy of the Carmelite, I did nothing but laugh from the beginning to the end.'

MRS. SIDDONS.

562. AT the time when Mrs. Siddons had just reached her high theatrical fame, and had acted some of her principal characters to the admiration of all who beheld her, a formal assembly of learned ladies, consisting of Mrs. Montagu, Mrs. Carter, Miss Hannah More, and sundry other members of the *bas bleu* met, and prevailed upon Mrs. Siddons to be of the party. Their object was to examine her, and to get from her the secret how she could act with such wonderful effect. Mrs. Montagu was deputed to be the prolocutress of this female convocation. 'Pray, madam,' said she to Mrs. Siddons, addressing her in the most formal man-

ner, 'give me leave to interrogate you, and to request you will tell us without duplicity or mental reservation, upon what principle you conduct your dramatic demeanour. Is your mode of acting, by which you obtain so much celebrity, the result of certain studied principles of art? Have you investigated, with profound research, the rules of elocution and gesture, as laid down by the antients and moderns, and reduced them to practice? or do you suffer nature to predominate, and only speak the untutored language of the passions?' 'Ladies,' said the modern Thalia, with great diffidence, but without hesitation, 'I do not know how to answer so learned a speech. All I know of the matter, and all I can tell you is, that I always act as *well as I can*.'

SIR HENRY SIDNEY.

563. HE was the virtuous and brave father of a still more renowned son, sir Philip Sydney. To a friend of a very fretful temper and very querulous, he said, in the genuine spirit of an antient philosopher: 'Take it from me, A weak man complains of others, an unfortunate man of himself, but a wise man complains neither of others nor of himself.'

SIGISMUND, EMPEROR OF GERMANY.

564. BEING one day asked what was the surest method of remaining happy in this world, replied, 'Only do in health, what you have promised to do when you were sick.'

SIR SIDNEY SMITH.

565. An officer maintained, in the presence of Sir S. Smith, that he could not assault a particular post, because it was *unattackable*. 'Sir,' said the gallant chief, 'that word is not English.'

SOCRATES.

566. 'This wise Athenian cross'd a glittering fair ;
Unmov'd by tongues and sights he walk'd the place,
Through tape, tags, tinsel, gimp, perfume and lace ;
Then bends from Mars's Hill his awful eyes,
And 'What a world I never want !' he cries.'

PARNELL.

567. Socrates being asked what was the best mode of gaining a high reputation, said, 'To be what you appear to be.'

568. Archelaus, a powerful monarch, offered Socrates a handsome pension, if he would come and reside at his court. The answer of the philosopher was as independent as laconic : 'At Athens meal is two pence the measure, and water may be had for nothing.'

SOLYMAN THE MAGNIFICENT.

569. WHEN Solyman the Magnificent marched to the conquest of Belgrade, in 1521, a woman of the common sort approached him, and complained bitterly, that while she was sleeping, soldiers had carried off her cattle, and this was all the property she had. 'You must have been buried in very deep sleep,' said the emperor, 'not to hear the noise the robbers made.' 'Such,' sire, was indeed the case,' replied the woman : 'for I slept in full confidence that your highness was watching over the public safety.' As Solyman was delighted with this answer, it is almost needless to add, that he ordered full amends to be made for her loss.

THE SPARTANS.

570. A DANCER said to a Spartan, 'You cannot stand so long on one leg as I can.' 'Perhaps not,' said the Spartan : 'but any goose can.'

571. Some Spartans as they travelled met a person, who told them they were fortunate, for a gang of robbers had just left that place. 'No,' answered one of them, 'the *robbers* were fortunate.'

572. A beggar asking alms of a Spartan, he answered, 'If I grant what you crave, I shall make you a more confirmed beggar ; he who first gave you money, taught you laziness.'

573. A traveller, observing the respect paid to age in Sparta, said, 'Here alone it is a pleasure to grow old.'

574. A Spartan mother, after the first news of a battle, went out of the city to obtain more intelligence. A messenger came and informed her, that both her sons were among the slain. 'Wretch!' said she, 'I did not inquire the fate of my sons, but that of my country.' When told that Sparta was victorious, she exclaimed, 'Then I rejoice in the death of my sons.'

575. A Spartan mother presented a shield to her son going to battle, with these words, 'Son, either this, or upon this.'

576. Another to her son, complaining that his sword was too short, said, 'Add a step to it.'

577. Demaratus, king of Sparta, being asked whether he was silent through folly or wisdom, replied, 'A fool cannot be silent.'

578. Xerxes, at the head of half a million of men, wrote thus to Leonidas, 'Surrender your arms.' Leonidas, who commanded only three hundred Spartans, returned this answer, 'Come and take them.'

579. Just before the battle of Thermopylæ, a Spartan soldier came and reported, that the Persians were so numerous, that their clouds of arrows darkened the

sun. 'So much the better,' said Leonidas, 'for we shall fight in the shade.'

LORD STANLEY.

580. THE antipathy which Dr. Johnson bore to Scotland was not singular or unprecedented. Lord Stanley came plainly dressed to request a private audience of king James I. A gaily dressed Scotchman refused him admittance into the king's closet. 'The king hearing an altercation between the two, came out, and inquired the cause. 'My liege,' said lord Stanley, 'this gay countryman of yours has refused me admittance to your presence.' 'Cousin,' said the king, 'how shall I punish him? shall I send him to the Tower?' 'O no, my liege,' replied lord Stanley, 'inflict a severer punishment; send him back to Scotland.'

581. Louis XIV., as he was reviewing his horse grenadier guards, said to lord Stanley, who was by his side, 'My lord, you see before you the most courageous soldiers in my army; I assure you there is not one among them who is not covered with wounds.' 'If they be so courageous,' replied lord Stanley, 'what must your majesty think of the courage of those who gave them these wounds?'

LAWRENCE STERNE.

582. SOME person remarked to him, that apothecaries bore the same relation to physicians, that attorneys do to barristers. 'So they do,' said Sterne; 'but apothecaries and attorneys are not alike, for the latter do not deal in *scruples*.'

EDMUND STONE.

583. HE was a self taught mathematician, a native of Scotland, and son to a gardener in the service of the duke of Argyle, 1720. He gave the duke, his patron,

a curious account of the progressive advance of his studies ; and his example proves what elevated and distant objects the regular course of determined diligence can reach. 'I was first,' said he, 'taught to read. I saw the duke's architect use rule and compasses, and make calculations ; the science called arithmetic was explained to me ; so I bought a book of arithmetic, and learned it. I then learned geometry. I was told there were good books upon the subject in French and Latin ; so I bought dictionaries, and learned French and Latin. The book you see me reading is the Principia of the great Newton. It seems to me, that if a man once knows the letters of the alphabet, he may acquire any kind of learning.'

SIR ROBERT SUTTON.

584. THERE is a species of retort so far superior to the common run of answers, that it may be very properly styled *sublime*. Of this kind is the following : Frederick the Great king of Prussia, asked sir Robert Sutton, at a review of his tall grenadiers, 'If he thought an equal number of Englishmen could beat them ?' 'Sir,' replied sir Robert, 'I do not venture to assert that ; but I believe half the number would try.'

DEAN SWIFT.

585. THE dean was both fond of conversing with the Irish common people and of amusing himself with their credulity. One day he observed a great rabble assembled before the deanery door, and was told they had met to see an eclipse. He sent for the beadle of the town, and told him what to do. Away ran Davy for his bell ; and, after ringing it some time, 'O yes, O yes, all manner of persons concerned, take notice that it is the dean's pleasure to put off the eclipse till this hour to-morrow. So God save the king and the dean !' The mob, except a few, immediately dispersed ; but those few swore they would not lose another afternoon, for,

that the dean, who was a very comical man, might take it into his head to put off the eclipse again, and so make fools of them a second time.

586. Dean Swift travelling in Ireland called at the house of a friend. The lady of the mansion rejoiced to have so distinguished a guest, ran up to him, and teased him with a number of questions, as to what he would like to have for dinner. 'Will you have an apple-pie, sir? will you have a goose-berrypie sir? will you have a cherry pie, sir? will you have a pigeon-pie. 'sir?' 'Any pie, madam,' replied the fatigued dean, 'but a *magpie*.'

587. He was asked at court, what he thought of an ambassador and his train, who were all embroidery and lace, full of bows, cringes, and gestures. He said it was solomon's importation, 'gold and apes.'

588. He said, that 'those who are always observing others, are like those who are always abroad, at other men's houses, reforming every thing there, while their own run to ruin.'

589. Voltaire related to Mr. Sherlock an anecdote of Swift. Lady Carteret, wife of the lord lieutenant, said to Swift, 'The air of Ireland is very excellent and healthy' 'For God sake, madam,' said Swift, falling down on his knees before her, 'don't say so in England; for if you do, they will certainly tax it.'

590. Swift having dined with, a rich miser, pronounced the following grace after dinner:

'Thanks for th's miracle, it is no less
Than finding manna in the wilderness.
In midst of famine we have found relief,
And seen the wonder of a chine of beef!
Chimneys have smok'd, that never smok'd before;
And we have din'd, where we shall dine no more.'

591. He said that a man of wit is not incapable of business, but above it. A sprightly generous horse

able to carry a pack-saddle as well as an ass, but he is too good to be put to the drudgery.

Sterne is said to have expressed the same excellent sentiment to the duke of Newcastle ; but its originality rests with Swift.

592. There scarcely ever was a finer compliment paid to a lady than that which was addressed by Dean Swift to a wife who was always praising her husband :

‘ You always are making a god of your spouse,
But that neither reason nor conscience allows :
Perhaps you may think ’tis in gratitude due,
And you adore him, because he adores you.
Your argument’s weak, and so you will find,
For, you, by this rule, must adore all mankind.’

593. Swift, in his lunacy, had lucid intervals. In one of these, he was taken to Dublin Park for the air. He there remarked a new building, and he was told it was a magazine for arms and powder for the security of the city. ‘ O,’ said the dean, ‘ let me take an item of this :’ he then wrote the following lines :

‘ Behold a proof of Irish sense,
Here Irish wit is seen ;
When nothing’s left that’s worth defence,
We build a magazine !’

And then he put up his pocket-book, laughing heartily at the conceit, and finishing it with these words : ‘ After the steed is stolen, shut the stable door.’

This was the last effort of his expiring wit.

MARSHAL TALLARD.

594. WHEN he was detained a prisoner in England, he passed some time with William Cavendish duke of Devonshire. His compliment at his departure was expressed in these terms to the duke : ‘ My lord, when I come hereafter to compute the time of my captivity

in England, I shall leave out the days of my enjoyment at Chatsworth.'

TASSO.

595. HE was honoured by the especial regard of Charles IX., king of France, when he attended cardinal Luigi, who went to France in quality of legate from his holiness the pope. In a conversation held before the king by several learned men, it was disputed what condition of life was the most unfortunate. 'In my opinion,' said, Tasso, 'the most unfortunate condition is that of an impatient old man, depressed by poverty; for the state of that person is doubtless very deplorable, who has neither the gifts of fortune to preserve him from want, nor the principles of philosophy to support himself under affliction.'

The character of Tasso has obtained the highest praise. It is said of him, that 'there never was a scholar more humble, a wit more devout, or a man more amiable in society.'

596. Some person reported to him, that a malicious enemy spoke ill of him to all the world. 'Let him Persevere,' said Tasso; 'his rancour gives me no pain. How much better is it that he should speak ill of me to all the world, than that all the world should speak ill of me to him!'

597. Tasso being told, that he had a fair opportunity of taking advantage of a very bitter enemy; 'I wish not,' said he, 'to plunder him; but there are things I wish to take away from him; not his honour, his wealth, or his life—but his ill will.'

Boileau has been too severe in his censures of the *Gerusalemme Liberata*. His delicate taste, it seems, was offended by the *cliquant* of Tasso. Now it is very remarkable that Boileau himself, in one of the few original poems he ever wrote, his *Ode sur la Prise de Namur*, has written with far more affectation, and decorated his poem with the same kind of tinsel, which he so much dislikes in Tasso.

598. It seems necessary for a man of genius to have some predecessor to show him the road to excellence: Tasso said of himself—‘If I had not read the Pastor Fido of Guarini, I had not excelled it.’

THALES,

599. ONE of the wise men of Greece. A sophist wishing to puzzle him with difficult questions, the sage of Miletus replied to them all without the least hesitation, and with the utmost precision.

What is the *oldest* of all things? God, because he has always existed.

What is the most *beautiful*? The world, because it is the work of God.

What is the *greatest* of all things? Space, because it contains all that has been created.

What is the most *constant* of all things? Hope, because it still remains with man, after he has lost every thing else.

What is the *best* of all things? Virtue, because without it there is nothing good.

What is the *quickest* of all things? Thought, because in less than a moment it can fly to the end of the universe.

What is the *strongest*? Necessity, which makes men face all the dangers of life.

What is the *easiest*? To give advice.

What is the most *difficult*? To know yourself.

What is the *wisest*? Time, for it discovers all things.

THE RIVER THAMES.

600 FULLER justly says, in his ‘Worthies of England,’ that London owes it grandeur and opulence, under God’s providence, to the well-conditioned river Thames, which employs its greatness in goodness,—to be beneficial to commerce by the reciprocation of the tides. Hence it was that when king James I., offended with the City, threatened to remove his court to another place, the Lord mayor boldly enough told him :

—‘Your majesty may remove the court at your pleasure, but you cannot remove the river Thames.’

THEMISTOCLES.

601. ANTIENT Greece can boast of no hero more illustrious. The victory he obtained in the Bay of Salamis over the Persian fleet, by which he procured the independence of his country, immortalized his name. As a general, his talents were consummate : as a judge, he was inflexibly impartial. Simonides the poet requested him to relax the rigour of justice in his favour. ‘If you would think that poet bad,’ said Themistocles, ‘who transgresses the rules of metre, why should you not reckon that judge infamous who holds the request of any one more sacred than the laws of his country ?’

602. A father consu'ted Themistocles to which of two lovers he should marry his daughter ; whether to a poor man of merit, or to a rich man of a bad character. ‘Were I in your place,’ said Themistocles, ‘I should prefer a man without money, to money without a man.’

603. If we could be admitted behind the scenes of the political drama, and proceed from beholding the public affairs of empires to inspect their secret origin, we should be astonished at the small springs that give the first impulse to movements of the greatest importance.

Themistocles had a son who was the darling of his mother. ‘This little fellow,’ said Themistocles, ‘is the sovereign of all Greece.’ ‘How so ?’ said a friend. ‘Why, he governs his mother, his mother governs me, I govern the Athenians, and the Athenians govern all Greece.’

604. As Themistocles was once marching amid the spoils of his enemies, he said to one of his soldiers, ‘collect those spoils for thyself, for thou art not Themistocles.’

THEODOSIUS THE GREAT.

605. He was born in Galicia in Spain, and flourished at the end of the fourth century. He appointed judges to try persons suspected of having formed a conspiracy against him. He advised them to carry on the trials with equity and moderation. 'Our first care,' said one of the judges, 'is to guard the safety of our sovereign.' 'Rather guard his *reputation*,' said Theodosius: 'a sovereign ought to measure his life, not by length of days, but the continuance of his glory.'

LORD CHANCELLOR THURLOW.

He had a strongly marked countenance; his features were large, his eye-brows were shaggy and prominent, and his eyes were expressive of uncommon intellect and ferocious dignity. He was what Dr. Johnson, calls 'truculent of aspect.'

606. A fine buffalo was given to him, and it was kept in an inclosure at his seat at Dulwich. This animal was so fierce, that even his keeper was very much afraid of him. One day lord Thurlow expressed his intention to approach him. The keeper warned him against risking such a danger; but the chancellor carrying a stout stick in his hand, walked slowly up to the animal, and looked at him with an aspect so grim and terrific, that the buffalo turned aside and retired. 'My lord,' exclaimed the trembling keeper, 'I am astonished at your boldness.' 'Your astonishment,' said his master, 'only shows your ignorance; do you not know, that man is ordained to be the lord of the creation; and it is only when he is poltroon enough, like you, to distrust his own powers, that he dares not face any beast whatever?'

607. A person came running almost breathless to chancellor Thurlow. 'My lord,' said he, 'I bring you tidings of calamity to the nation, and I do not know

how far the direful effects of it may spread to endanger the church and state.'—'What is the matter, man?' said the impatient chancellor. 'My lord,' continued this magnifier of political mischief, 'a rebellion has broken out.'—'Where, where?' 'In the Isle of Man.'—'A rebellion in the Isle of Man,' repeated the vociferous and enraged chancellor; 'a tempest in a tea-pot!'

There is a similar idea in Athenæus.

TIBERIUS.

608. AMBASSADORS came from Ilium to offer their condolence to the emperor Tiberius, on the death of his son Drusus, a considerable time after that event. 'In return,' said Tiberius, 'for these very *prompt* expressions of your sympathy, I assure you of my very deep sorrow for the loss of your countryman Hector.'

609. Gratified as he was with the incense of flattery, he was sometimes compelled to listen to the voice of truth. He wrote the history of his own life, and paid great attention to the style. He consulted Ateius Capito, a great grammarian, respecting a word which he suspected not to be pure. Ateius, who was a gross flatterer, said, that although the word was not sanctioned by antient usage, yet the authority of the emperor stamped it genuine. Another grammarian was more sincere: 'Cæsar,' said he, 'you can confer the freedom of Rome upon men, but you cannot give it to words.'

THE MARQUIS DE TIERCEVILLE.

610. A FRENCH gentleman, presenting in a jocose manner this young marquis to a lady of his acquaintance, 'Madam,' said he, 'this is the marquis de Tierceville, and he is not so great a fool as he looks to be.' 'Madam,' answered the young marquis, 'this is the exact difference between this gentleman and me.'

ARCHBISHOP TILLOTSON.

611. ARCHDEACON REEVES observed in the library of archbishop Tillotson, a shelf of books of various forms and sizes, all richly bound and finely gilt and lettered. He asked his grace, why they were so distinguished. 'These,' said the archbishop, 'are my own personal friends; and what is more, I have myself made them such, for they meant to be my enemies. I have used those hints their malice suggested, and from them I have received more profit than from the advice of my best friends. It is for this reason, as you may see, I have rewarded them accordingly.'

A PICTURE OF THE TIMES.

612. SITTING once in my library,' said Mr. Harris, 'with a friend, a worthy but melancholy man, I read him out of a book, the following passage: 'In our time it may be spoken more truly than of old, that virtue is gone, the church is under foot, the clergy is in error, the devil reigneth.' My friend interrupted me with a sigh, and said, 'Alas, how true, how just a picture of the times!' I asked him of what times. 'Of what times?' replied he with emotion; 'can you suppose any other but the present—were any before ever so corrupt, so bad?' 'Forgive me,' said I, 'for stopping you; the times I am reading of are older than you imagine; the sentiment was delivered about *four hundred years ago*; its author sir John Mandeville, who died in 1371.'

JOHN HORNE TOOKE.

No man ever displayed more subtlety or coolness of judgment in the discussion of arguments that arose in the course of conversation. But when he obtained a seat in the house of commons, he seemed out of his element, and spoke more like a casuistical attorney than an eloquent senator. What Tacitus said of Galba, may

be applied to him as a member of parliament ; he was, '*Major imperio, nisi imperasset.*'

613. In mixed conversation he was full of pleasantry, on politics alone he was bitter and inflexible. During the fervour of the French revolution, he talked as if England was upon the verge of a great political change. *Quod volumus facile credimus.* Conversing upon the nature of the aristocratical part of the British constitution, he said to a person who thought very differently to himself, ' I trust we shall live to see the day, when the distinction of titles will be abolished, and we may eat our mutton without being teased with such childish subjects as ribbons, and stars, and garters.'

Instead of living to see his Utopian dreams of equality realized in Great Britain, he lived to see ' the Child and Champion of Jacobinism ' revive the order of nobility in France ; and as if to show his contempt for ' the Rights of Man,' he decked his satellites with those aristocratical insignia, for which the old court of France had been so much persecuted by the democrats.

614. When he heard of some failures of merchants in the city, he said, ' You are not going, you are gone. It is not a slight hurt, but a mortal gangrene.'

615. His opinion upon the subject of law was admirable. ' Law,' he said, ' ought to be, not a luxury for the rich, but a remedy, to be easily, cheaply, and speedily obtained by the poor.' A person observed to him how excellent are the English laws, because they are impartial, and our courts of justice are open to all persons without distinction. ' And so,' said Tooke, ' is the *London tavern*, to such as can afford to pay for their entertainment.'

616. He was very severe in his criticisms on authors. He underrated the talents of Harris, the author of *Hermes*, &c. A person observed, that Harris was a man of great erudition, as appeared by his numerous

quotations, in support of his opinions. 'It may be so,' said Tooke; 'but as judges shelter their knavery by precedents, so do scholars their ignorance by authority.'

617. He said of a certain barrister, whom he believed to be a perfect democrat, 'That man would rejoice to see all London burning, that he might roast his potatoes by the flames.'

618. During the time of his trial for high treason in 1794, one cold night as he was returning from the Old Baily to Newgate, a lady advancing towards him pulled up the collar of his coat, and at the same time put a silk handkerchief round his neck. While she was employed in this friendly attention he gaily said, 'Pray, madam, be careful, for I am rather ticklish at present about *that place*.'

619. He was accused of being implicated with Hardy and the other prisoners, in the design of going all lengths with them in their career of political reform, or demolition. 'They might,' said he, 'intend to go as far as the king at *Windsor*; but I defy my accusers to prove, by any overt acts of mine, that I intended to accompany my friends any farther than *Brentford*.'

CHARLES TOWNSEND.

620. LORD M****, an Irish nobleman, was remarkable for no small share of vanity. When he was indulging in his favourite strain of egotism in a large company, he made the following remark: 'When I happen to say a foolish thing, I always burst out a laughing.' 'I envy your happiness then,' said Charles Townsend, 'for you must live the merriest life of any man in Europe.'

LADY TYRCONNEL.

621. THE laurels which James II. won by sea he lost

by land. Having been a spectator of the battle of the Boyne, on the first of July 1690, he thought it most prudent, while the fortune of the day was yet undecided, to seek his safety in flight. In a few hours he reached the castle of Dublin, where he was met by lady Tyrconnel, a woman of great spirit. 'Your countrymen, the Irish, madam,' said James, as he was ascending the stairs, 'can run well.' 'Not quite so well as your majesty,' retorted her ladyship, 'for I see you have won the race.'

VAUGELAS.

622. HE was the translator of Quintus Curtius into French. Voiture, his friend, often rallied him on the excessive pains he took, and told him he thought he would never finish the work, and that he employed so much time in polishing one part of it, that the French language changed, and obliged him to alter all the rest. He very happily applied to the tardy translator, the well-known epigram of Martial :

*'Eutrapelus tonsor dum circuit ora Luperci,
Expurgitque genas, altera barba subest.'*

So said he,

'Altera lingua subest.'

The translation, when it at last was published, was highly commended ; and its favourable reception induced Balsac to say, 'That the Alexander of Quintus Curtius was invincible, and the Alexander of Vaugelas inimitable.'

623. He obtained a pension from the king of France by the interest of cardinal Richelieu ; upon which occasion the cardinal told him he hoped he would not forget the word *pension*, in his Dictionary. 'No, my lord,' said Vaugelas, 'nor the word *gratitude*.'

MARSHAL VILLARS.

624. WHEN the great marshal Villars was past four-score, he gave a signal instance of his alacrity and courage, in attacking some squadrons of Imperial horse with the king of Sardinia's guards. That king expressed his admiration of this exploit, and said, 'Although advanced in years, you have shown all the ardour of a young officer.' To this compliment the marshal replied, 'Lamps are apt to sparkle just before they expire.'

625. Marshal Villars had many enemies at the court of Versailles. When he went there, previous to resuming the command of the army in Flanders, 'I leave your majesty,' said he, 'in the midst of my enemies, while I go to combat yours.'

VOLTAIRE.

626. A YOUNG writer, who flattered himself he was an original genius, having consulted Voltaire respecting a tragedy, which he had filled with extravagant incidents, Voltaire pointed out his defects. This young writer took pains to assure him, that it had been his object to keep as far from the imitation of Corneille and Racine as possible. 'So much the worse ; for do you not know, sir,' said Voltaire, 'that a good imitation is the most perfect originality ?'

627. Voltaire observed, 'That what makes modern historians insipid, is their entering into so many details, like the writers of newspapers. Antient historians did not condescend to be so circumstantial ; hence their pictures of mankind are finished in a much higher style, and they have infinitely more spirit.'

628. He once called upon a beautiful lady, to whom he paid this compliment ; 'Your rivals are the perfection of art, but you are the perfection of nature.'

629. He sometimes consulted physicians, and even quacks, without having any high opinion of the efficacy of art to cure the disorders of the human constitution. 'Regimen,' said he, 'is of more service than medicine : every man ought to be his own physician ; he ought to assist nature, and never force her ; but more than all, he ought to learn to bear pain, how to grow old, and how to die.'

630. 'Some things are injurious to us, others are salutary. Eat with moderation what you know by experience will agree with you : nothing is good for the constitution but what is easy of digestion. What receipt will promote digestion ? Exercise.—What will recruit strength ? Sleep.—What will lessen even incurable evils ? Patience.'

631. The history of England appeared to him to be so blackened with horrible scenes, that he said, 'it was written by an executioner, for almost all the disputes in England have been terminated either upon the scaffold or by the gallows.'

632. In a conversation with Mr. Sherlock, he said, 'The tragedy of Cato is admirably well written : Addison had a great deal of taste ; but the abyss between taste and genius is immense. Shakspeare had an astonishing genius, but no taste : he has spoiled the taste of the English : he has been their favourite for two hundred years ; and what is the taste of a nation for two hundred years, will continue so for two thousand.'

633. Voltaire was very fond of talking English : he conversed in that language with the celebrated Dr. Franklin. Miss Denis told him, it would be more agreeable to the company if he would talk French. 'My dear niece,' said he, 'you cannot imagine how proud I am to converse in the language of Dr. Franklin.'

634. 'What is your opinion of Ariosto ?' said Vol-

taire to an abbé just returned from Italy. 'I think him a great poet,' said the abbé. 'I think him,' said Voltaire with some warmth, 'the greatest of poets. His Orlando Furioso is an enchanted palace, where the burlesque is so happily blended with the majestic, that one sets off the other. It is at once the Iliad, the Odyssey, and Don Quixote.'

635. He was determined to be never outdone in compliments. He said once to Vernet the painter, in return for his praise, 'Your colours are beautiful and lasting, and your name will be immortal.' 'My colours,' replied Vernet, 'are not so durable as your ink;' and he was going, when he uttered these words, to kiss Voltaire's hand. 'What are you going to do?' said Voltaire drawing back: 'If you kiss my hand, I must kiss your feet.'

636. The following was the most apt and brilliant allusion he ever made. It would perhaps be difficult in all the annals of wit to find an instance that surpasses it. Voltaire said many flattering things of a celebrated writer, probably Boileau. He set, however, a much higher value upon his 'Art of Poetry,' than upon his 'Poems.' 'He resembles Moses,' said Voltaire, 'who pointed out the promised land to others, but never reached it himself.'

The above are some of the most favourable specimens of Voltaire's facetiousness; but their brilliancy ought not to make us blind to the *spirit* which pervades too many of his works. The following character of him, written by one who witnessed the calamitous effects of his publications upon the minds and the actions of his countrymen at the beginning of the French revolution, is no less poignant than just.

637. 'He was the grand corruptor of the French; and, with all his pretended freedom of expression, he flattered every king and every vice of his age. He knew not how to strike at superstition without wounding

morality ; unlike Hercules, who transfixed the Centaur without hurting the beautiful Deianira. With his *eternal sardonic smile*, he has bequeathed us a shameful pyrrhonism and a cruel levity, which make us glide alike over virtues and vices.*

LORD WALGRAVE.

633. LORD WALGRAVE abjured the Catholic religion, and was a long time ambassador at Paris. He was one day teased upon the subject of his conversion by the duke of Berwick. 'Pray,' said he, 'Mr. Ambassador, who had most to do in your conversion, the ministers of state or the ministers of religion?' 'This is a question,' said his lordship, 'you must excuse my answering, for when I ceased to be a Catholic, I renounced confession.'

EDMUND WALLER.

639. A MOTION was made in the house of commons, in the time of the grand rebellion, that such men as were chosen to serve in the parliament's troops should be *faithful* and *skilful* riders. Mr. Waller said, 'He much approved the motion ; for it is very necessary the riders be faithful, lest they run away with the horses ; and skilful, lest their horses run away with the riders.'

640. King Charles II., after the Restoration, told Waller, that he had made better verses and said finer things of the usurper Cromwell than of him : 'That may very well be,' said Waller, 'for poets generally succeed better in fiction than in telling truth.'

641. King James II. treated him with great kindness and familiarity. One day, taking him into his closet, the king asked him how he liked one of the pictures. 'My eyes,' said Waller, then at a very advanced age,

* Nouveau Tableau de Paris, par Mercier.

'are dim, and I do not know it.' The king said it was the princess of Orange. 'She is,' said Waller, 'like the greatest woman in the world.' The king asked who that was ; and was answered, Queen Elizabeth. 'I wonder,' said the king, 'you should think so ; but I must confess she had a wise council.' 'And, sir,' said Waller, 'did you ever know a fool choose a wise one ?'

642. When the king knew that he was about to marry his daughter to Dr. Birch, a clergyman, he ordered a French gentleman to tell him, that the king wondered he could think of marrying his daughter to a falling church. 'The king,' said Waller, 'does me great honour, in taking notice of my domestic affairs ; but I have lived long enough to observe, that this falling church has got a trick of rising again.'

643. *The poet Waller to a lady singing one of his own songs :*

'That eagle's fate and mine are one,
Who on the shaft that made him die,
Espied a feather of his own,
Wherewith he went to soar so high.'

LADY WALLIS.

644. LADY WALLIS, seeing a gentleman sauntering about in one of her parties, said, 'Pray, sir, do you play cards ?' 'No, my lady.' 'Do you dance ?' 'No,' repeated the saunterer. 'Then, sir,' said she, 'give me leave to say, you are neither useful nor ornamental.'

SIR ROBERT WALPOLE.

645. ONE day in the house of commons, a speaker in opposition to the ministry, and famous for his long harangues, had been upon his legs nearly two hours, inveighing against sir Robert's measures. He was silenced for several days, by sir Robert telling the following story. 'A short time ago,' said the premier, 'I

was travelling in the west of England with two ladies and a gentleman. Our carriage was in very good repair, the roads were very smooth, and the coachman was an expert driver. One of the ladies, however, appeared to be greatly terrified, crying out every minute, we should be overturned, or, the carriage would certainly break down. This language she held for several miles, whilst I endeavoured to prevail upon her to lay aside her apprehensions, assuring her we were in no danger whatever, that we were travelling in the greatest security imaginable, and that all her fears were entirely groundless. At length the gentleman, her brother, burst into a violent laugh, saying, his sister knew perfectly well we were safe, but having a melodious voice, and a fluency of words, she was very fond of hearing herself talk :’ and sir Robert concluded with observing, ‘ that several gentlemen in the opposition exactly resembled the lady he had mentioned ; for though they must be convinced that the state vehicle was in perfectly good repair, and was well conducted, yet they were so fond of hearing themselves harangue, that they seized every opportunity of indulging their loquacity at the expense of their judgment.

HORACE WALPOLE,

646. HEARING that two of his female relations had quarrelled, asked, ‘ Did they call each other *ugly* ?’ ‘ No.’ ‘ Well, well, then,’ said he, ‘ I shall soon reconcile them.’

BISHOP Warburton.

His abilities were powerful, and his information various, chiefly the result of the studies of his mature age. Although his natural temper was haughty and imperious, he was obsequious and humble whenever he thought it prudent to bend to circumstances. No author was ever more fond of a paradox. He was a perfect Don Quixote in literature, for he saw objects as no one else saw them : and when his imagination had once meta-

morphosed them into new shapes, each became as dear to him as a *Dulcinea del Toboso*, and he assailed all opponents with unabating fury. As a specimen of this critical chivalry, he wrote a dissertation to prove, that the descent of *Æneas* into the infernal regions was designed by *Virgil* to describe the initiation of a novice into the *Eleusinian* mysteries. Was he aware that father *Hardouin* had made a much greater discovery ; for he had found out that the whole *Æneid* was an allegory, intended to describe the voyage of *St. Peter* to *Rome* !!!

Sir *Thomas Hanmer*, who knew *Warburton* well, said, with reference to his *Notes on Shakspeare*, ‘ His only use was in starting the game ; but he was not to be trusted in running it down.’

647. Dr. *Bentley*, when he saw ‘ *The Divine Legation of Moses*,’ said, ‘ The author of this work has a monstrous appetite, with a bad digestion.’

648. He used to say, ‘ That the two most difficult things to meet with in the world were, a disinterested man, and a woman who had common sense—that sense without which wit is folly, learning pedantry, and virtue itself weakness of mind.’

649. After a long absence he appeared at court, when the king observing to him, he supposed he had just left his diocese ; ‘ No please your majesty,’ said the bishop, ‘ I am just come from *Prior Park*, near my diocese, but not in it.’ ‘ What have you been doing ?’ said the king. ‘ I have, replied the bishop, ‘ been combating the enemies of that faith, of which your majesty is the avowed and zealous defender.’

DR. JOSEPH WARTON.

HE was a delightful poet, a most elegant scholar, and an able critic. His conversation was rich and fluent, and displayed exhaustless stores of wit, pleasantry, and literary anecdotes.

650. Dr. Balguy, a very able divine, having preached an excellent discourse in Winchester cathedral, the text of which was, 'All wisdom is sorrow,' received the following elegant compliment from Joseph Warton, then at Winchester school :—

'If what you advance, my dear doctor be true,
That wisdom is sorrow, how wretched are you !'

651. The following very sweet address to Music, is a free translation of a chorus in the *Medea* of Euripides. Dr. Warton said, that he composed these verses while he was drawing on his boots :—

'Queen of ev'ry moving measure,
Sweetest source of purest pleasure,
Music ! why thy powers employ,
Only for the sons of joy ;
Only for the smiling guests,
At natal or at nuptial feasts ?
Rather thy lenient numbers pour
On those whom secret griefs devour ;
Bid be still the throbbing hearts
Of those whom death or absence parts ;
And with some softly-whisper'd air,
Smooth the brow of dumb despair.'

652. In his 'Ode to Fancy,' he has drawn a pathetic picture, which shows the originality of his genius :—

'Haste Fancy, from the scenes of Folly,
To meet the matron Melancholy ?
Lead to some abbey's mould'ring tow'rs,
Where, to avoid cold wintry show'rs,
The naked beggar shiv'ring lies,
While whistling temptests round her rise,
And trembles lest the tott'ring wall
Should on her sleeping infants fall.'

653. Dr. Warton's opinion was asked of Warburton's *Divine Legation of Moses*. It is a work said he, 'in which numerous quotations are very ingen-

iously strung together to support a paradox. Warburton was a clever man, but not a regular or deep scholar. He is indebted, for most of his quotations, with which he makes such a parade of learning, to the collections of Grævius and Gronovius. As he could not reach the stream of Ilissus, nor the fountain of Aganippe, and there drink copiously, he was glad to take a draught of classical water from the reservoirs of others.'

THOMAS WARTON.

His writings display great richness of fancy, vigour of judgment, and extent of learned research. In the company of strangers he was reserved, among his daily associates affable and good-humoured; but his conversation rarely took any high flight of fancy, or wide range observation. It usually fell very much below the powers of his mind; and his delight was, in compliance with the old fashion of the university, to indulge himself in making puns.

654. During the first, American war there was a camp at Coxheath, and Warton passed some time there. He was asked by a colonel of one of the regiments to read prayers and preach, and the colonel expressed a hope that he did not come unprovided with *theological ammunition*. 'No, no,' said Warton, 'I have brought some old stores with me that, I hope, will answer the purpose you wish: I assure you I come provided with both *Muscat* and *Ball*.' These were the names of two writers of sermons.

655. In a company where Tom Warton was present, a person was talking of the active disposition of the king, and that he possessed a number of time-pieces, particularly a watch so light and small that he could wear it as a ring: 'The king wears this,' said Warton, 'to show that time does not hang heavy upon his hands.'

The king conferred on alderman Treacher, an Oxford brewer, the honour of knighthood. Warton was told that Treacher was made a knight of the new order of Peg Nicholson. 'Sir,' said the wag, 'the king should have revived an old order, the brewer should have been dubbed a knight of *Malta*.'

657. A person just returned from London, told him he had attended an execution at Tyburn, and had seen Jack Ketch dressed very shabbily. 'Do you not think, sir,' said he, 'that such a public officer ought to wear a gown?' 'By all means,' replied Warton; 'but be sure to let him have *hanging* sleeves to it.'

658. Tom Warton's conversation turned upon Rapin's 'History of England,' when he was disturbed by a young man, whose name was *Tindal*, making a noise at the college gate. The discussion was resumed, and again interrupted by Tindal knocking for admittance at the college gate. On one of the company asking Warton what was the matter, 'I believe, sir,' said he, 'it is *Tindal's continuation of Rap-in*.'

659. He heard two physicians talking of the singular beauty of a lady: they both conversed with great animation, and seemed to contend which should praise her the most. 'I do not wonder, gentlemen,' said Warton, 'at the warmth of your discussion, as the subject of it is a *Venus de Medicis*.'

660. It was reported that a certain duke who lived in the vicinity of Oxford, not remarkable for his liberality, allowed his servants to dispose of the produce of his lake. 'I always suspected,' said Warton, 'that the man was *sel-fish*.'

661. He used jocosely to say, that the university of Cambridge must not object to Oxford its total neglect of various branches connected with the study of mathematics. Is not *navigation* learnt on the Isis, *gunnery* on the neighbouring hill? The *axis in peritrochio* is

well illustrated by a scheme in a phaeton; the doctrine of the *screw* is practically explained most evenings in the students' room, together with the *motion of fluids*.'

662. The following beautiful epigrammatic Invocation to sleep is attributed to T. Warton :

*'Sonne, veni, quanquam certissima mortis imago es
Consortem cupio te tamen esse tori.
Huc ades, haud abitare cito, nam sic sine vita
Vivere quam suave est, sic sine morte mori.'*

O Sleep, of death although the image true,
Much I desire to share my bed with you.
O come and tarry, for how sweet to lie,
Thus without life, thus without death to die.'

There is something in the point of these verses, that may remind the reader of the following lines of Giraldus Cambrensis :

*'Vive Deo, tibi mors requies, tibi vita labori;
Vive Deo, mors est vivere, vita mori.'*

663. *Inscription over a calm and clear spring in
Blenheim gardens :—*

*'Here quench your thirst, and mark in me
An emblem of true charity,
Who, while my bounty I bestow,
Am neither seen nor heard to flow.'*

This union of ideas is highly beautiful. It is possible that Warton might have seen the following inscription upon a fountain at Paris :

*'Quæ tibi donat aquam, latet hospita nympha sub imo;
Sic tu, cum dederis dona, latere velis.'*

PHILIP DUKE OF WARTON.

Was prodigal in his expenses and versatile in politics, a courtier at home and a rebel abroad. His dissipated character and conduct are supposed to have furnished Richardson with materials for his *Lovelace* in the novel of *Clarissa Harlowe*

564. In the reign of queen Anne, Robert Harley, earl of Oxford, the premier, caused a number of peers to be created at one time, to carry a particular point in the upper house. The duke of Wharton meeting him soon after, with some allusion to his fondness for the game of whist, as well as an immediate reference to what he had just done, said, 'So, Robin, I find what you lost by *tricks* you have gained by *honours*.'

665. The duke complained to sir John Cutler, the noted miser, of the disorder of his affairs, and asked him what he should do to prevent the loss of his estate. 'Live as I do, my lord,' said sir John. 'That I can do,' answered the duke, 'after I am ruined.'

PROFESSOR WHITE.

666. He is one of the old school of Oxford punsters. The professor went to see Blenheim House, and a party of young persons were appointed to meet him there. —Blenheim can only be seen at a certain time of the day, and the party arrived too late. One of his friends scolded them for being so tardy. 'You must make some allowance,' said the good-natured professor; 'young folks, you should recollect, will have their *past-times*.'

667. Just after the attack which Dr. Parr made upon him, claiming a large share of the Bampton Lectures, the professor went down to Dover to bathe. Some person advised him to go into the warm bath. 'I thank you, sir,' said the professor, 'but I don't think I want it, as I have already been *par-boiled*.'

668. He was in the Bodleian Library when the collection of coins and medals was shown to a party of strangers. By some accident a drawer containing many of the pieces was overturned, and they were scattered upon the floor. 'This is a fine sight, indeed,' said he; 'I don't know when I have seen so much *current coin*.'

JOHN WILKES.

669. At a city meeting John Wilkes harangued the assembly; and on some clamour being made, alderman Sawbridge said to Wilkes, 'Had you not better be silent, as you see the *sense* of the assembly is against you?' 'The sense,' said Wilkes, 'may be against me; but I am determined to persevere in my speech, as the majority in such a meeting as this is always on the side of *nonsense*.'

670. John Wilkes was asked why he, who was formerly all alive upon such occasions, was now so lukewarm in an election that was going forward. His answer was, 'I am old and infirm, and am now like a volcano burnt out.'

BISHOP WILKINS.

It would be an act of injustice to the author of one of the neatest repartees that ever was made, not to give it a place in this collection. To say that it is well known, is only an acknowledgement of its excellence.

671. The duchess of Newcastle, who was a great writer of plays and romances in the time of Charles II., asked bishop Wilkins, who had just announced his discovery of a world in the moon, how she could get there. 'As the journey,' said she, 'must needs be very long, there will be no possibility of going through it without stopping by the way.' 'Your grace,' replied the bishop, 'can be at no loss for places to stop at, as you have built so many *castles in the air*.'

ARCHBISHOP WILLIAMS.

672. He showed such resolution in the defence of episcopacy at the beginning of the troubles of Charles I., that the king said to him, 'My lord, I commend you, that you are no whit daunted with all disasters, but are zealous in defending your order.' 'Please it your majesty,' replied the archbishop, 'I am one of the true Welshmen, and they are observed never to run away till their general first forsakes them—no fear of my flinching, while your majesty doth countenance our cause.'

TRUE WITCHCRAFT.

673. AN Italian lady, the wife of the marshal d'Ancre, having had great ascendancy over Mary de Medicis queen of France, after her death was brought to trial on a charge of witchcraft. Being asked what potent spell she had used to fascinate the queen: 'The potent spell,' she replied, 'by which a strong mind fascinates a weak one.'

THE PENSIONARY DE WITT.

674. 'HOLD your tongue,' said a Frenchman; 'you talk so much, I cannot taste my meat.' 'Silence,' said a child to his mamma at a pantomime; 'do you not see harlequin is going to jump over the clown's head!' It was great vanity in Cæsar to pretend to dictate accurately to three secretaries at the same time. The reply of the celebrated pensionary de Witt was much more judicious. On being asked how he contrived to transact a multiplicity of business in the course of the day, without neglect or disorder, he answered, 'I make it a rule always to attend to one thing at a time.'

GENERAL WOLFE.

675. GENERAL WOLFE was always anxious to main-

tain the respectability of the military character ; he therefore treated every soldier as a gentleman. One day when taking a ride, he dismounted, and left his horse for his servant to hold. On his return he found a grenadier holding his own and his servant's horse, and the servant gone. He thanked the grenadier for the trouble he had taken, held the horses himself, and desired him to stay with him. On the servant's return, 'Sirrah,' said the general, 'what do you mean by deserting your service, and taking up the time of this soldier? Had he been upon the parade, and I had employed him as you have, it would have been proper enough : but can you be such a fool as to think, as he has the honour to wear the uniform of the king, and is engaged to fight for his country, that he ought to supply the place of an idle servant? Know that it is your duty, and my command, that you wait upon the soldiers, and not the soldiers upon you.'

676. General Wolfe invited a Scotch officer to dine with him, the same day he was also invited by some brother officers. 'You must excuse me,' said he to them; 'I am already engaged to Wolfe.' A smart young ensign observed, he might as well have expressed himself with more respect, and said *General Wolfe*. 'Sir,' said the Scotch officer with great promptitude, 'We never say General Alexander or General Cæsar.' Wolfe, who was within hearing, by a low bow to the Scotch officer, acknowledged the pleasure he felt at the high compliment.

THE MAGNANIMITY OF WOMEN.

THIS quality was not confined to the women of Sparta, as the following anecdotes will prove.

677. When John Sobieski, king of Poland, mounted his horse to go to raise the siege of Vienna, than closely invested by the Turks, the queen his wife looked at him with eyes streaming with tears, and then looked at a little boy, the youngest of her sons. 'Why, my love,

do you weep so bitterly?' said the king to her. 'I weep,' said she, 'because this child is not old enough to accompany his father.'

678. Tidings of the battle of Ramillies, so fatal to the French arms, reached madam Villeroi. Her husband, the marshal Villeroi, had lost that battle to John the great duke of Marlborough. One of the friends of the above-mentioned lady came to give her comfort, and assured her that the marshal had escaped unhurt, and was in good health. 'That,' said she, 'may be enough for me, but it is *not enough* for him.'

THE MARQUIS OF WORCESTER.

EDWARD SOMERSET, marquis of Worcester, was a zealous Catholic, a man of the highest honour, courage, and enterprise, and so loyal a cavalier, that he made every sacrifice in his power to the service of Charles I. His castle of Ragland in Monmouthshire was the last fortress that was surrendered to the rebels.

679. He was famous for his pithy and pleasant conversation. He was always inclinable to charitable constructions of any person's conduct, and was never at a loss for some excuse or other to palliate imperfections. 'Alas! gentlemen,' said he to some of his friends, who spoke freely of one who was vain and ostentatious, yet had considerable merit; 'will you have corn grow without chaff, or light to be without darkness, or pleasant wines without dregs? If you set a man on his horse, let him have his spurs.'

680. The following are extracts from a copy of a very rare work preserved in the British museum, entitled 'Worcester's Apothegmes, by T. B. 1650.'

'When king Charles I. entered the castle of Ragland, after the battle of Naseby, the marquis kneeling, kissed the king's hand; and rising up again, he saluted his majesty with this compliment, '*Domine, non sum dignus.*' The king replied, 'My lord, I may very

well answer you again, I have not found so great faith in Israel; for no man would trust me with so much money as you have done.' To which the marquis replied, 'I hope your majesty will prove a defender of the faith.'

'The king thanked the marquis for the monies lent him: the marquis returned the king this answer: 'Sir, I had your word for my money, but I never thought I should be so soon repaid; for now you have given me thanks, I have all I look for.'

'The marquis was one day reading us a lecture of patience in our adversity. Among the rest of those witty sayings which came from him, he told us that there was nothing so bad but was good for something; 'For,' said he, 'if there were no silence, there could be no musick; for the suddain stops that are in musick adde to the grace and perfection of the arte: ignorance is a spur to knowledge; darkness is a pavilion to the Almighty, a cabbin or drawn chamber for us to sleep in, a dungeon for the judge to punish his delinquents, and a foile for the painter to make his shadowes; so are afflictions good for our instruction, and adversities for our amendment.'

ZENO.

681. THE ambassadors of a certain prince invited Zeno the philosopher to a sumptuous feast; and were surprised, as they had heard much of his powers of conversation, that he did not talk at all. When they asked what report they should make of him: 'Tell your prince, said he, 'that you have been in company with an old man who could hold his tongue.'

682. A person asked Zeno the philosopher, if wise men ever fall in love. His answer was, 'If wise men do not fall in love, beautiful women must be very unfortunate.'

COUNT ZENOBIO,

AN emigrant Venetian, who long resided in England, and indulged his fondness for Bonaparte and for cards.

683. He challenged an officer to play with him at all-fours, thinking, from his superior knowledge of the game, he should make an easy conquest. The officer, however, proved more than a match for him, and eased the confident Venetian of a considerable sum. He bore his loss with good humour, and when he related the story of his defeat, said, I was mistaken in my antagonist : I thought to have plucked a pigeon, but I have been seized upon by a hawk.'

ZEUXIS.

HE flourished four hundred years before Christ, and was the rival of Timanthes, Parrhasius, and Apollodorus.

684. Pliny the elder bestowed upon this artist that extraordinary and judicious praise which conveys to us a high idea of his talents. Speaking of the picture which Zeuxis painted of Penelope, Pliny says, 'He painted *the manners* of that queen.'

685. Zeuxis never attempted to finish his works with rapidity ; and when a person reproached him for his tardiness, he said, the reason of his slow progress was, 'That he painted for eternity.'

His last picture was an old woman : it was so comical and ridiculous, that he is said to have died with laughing at it.

ZIMMERMAN.

686. THIS eminent physician went from Hanover to attend Frederick the Great in his last illness. One day the king said to him, 'You have, I presume, sir, helped many a man into another world.' This was rather a bitter pill for the doctor ; but the dose he gave the king in return was a judicious mixture of truth and flattery : 'Not so many as your majesty, nor with so much honour to myself.'



THE
FLOWERS OF WIT.

PART II.

Consisting of Bon Mots, chiefly anonymous, of various descriptions, Sublime, Satirical, Humorous, &c, &c.

THE NORTHERN PEASANT.

687. THAT a taste for the sublime and beautiful is not confined to persons of cultivated minds, but is a kind of universal principle, cannot justly be denied.—A gentleman resident among the mountains of Cumberland, was talking to a peasant of the eagles that used to infest Borrowdale, and carry off poultry, and sometimes lambs. ‘It is true,’ said the peasant, ‘that these birds of prey did us some damage, but I am sorry they are all gone.’ ‘Why so?’ said the gentleman. ‘Because,’ replied the peasant, ‘it gives me pleasure to see an eagle,—‘ it is such a noble work of God!’

THE SUBLIME OF AN ARTIST.

688. MICHAEL ANGELO was extremely disinterested. For his noble design of the church of St. Peter at

Rome, he received only twenty-five Roman crowns, and it was finished in a fortnight. Santo Gallo had been many years employed in his wretched models, and received four thousand crowns for them. This being reported to Angelo, far from being mortified or envious, he said, 'I work for God, and require no other recompense.'

THE SUBLIME OF BEGGING.

IF nobleness of mind constitutes the true dignity of man, neither his mean attire nor his reduced circumstances can diminish his intrinsic worth. We cannot fail to be struck with an uncommon degree of admiration, when we hear those sentiments expressed by a beggar, which would exalt the character even of a monarch.

689. 'As you do not belong to my parish,' said a gentleman to a begging sailor with a wooden leg. 'I cannot relieve you.' 'Sir,' replied the sailor, with an air of heroism, 'I lost my leg fighting for *all* parishes.'

A PROCLAMATION.

690. WHEN the khan of Tartary, who lives in a cabin, has finished his noon-tide meal, which consists only of milk and horse-flesh, he orders proclamation to be made by his herald, 'That all the emperors and kings of the world have his permission to go to dinner.'

THE SPANISH CHARACTER.

691. THE Spaniards are marked by a certain gravity of demeanour, or constitutional phlegm, which assumes the appearance of pride. It is not merely among persons of rank and fortune that this hauteur shows itself; but a Spanish tradesman, and even a mendicant, preserves a lofty demeanour, which raises him above his condition. A beggar in Madrid solicited alms of a person, who, instead of relieving, reproached him for preferring his idle way of life to active and useful occupa-

tion. 'I asked you for your *money*, and not your *advice*,' said the beggar; and turned his back upon his monitor, with the scornful air of a genuine Castilian.

CLEOPATRA.

692. A LADY to whom a painter had promised to give the best picture in his collection, hit upon this stratagem to find out which he thought so. She sent a messenger to the painter, when he was from home, to tell him that his house was on fire. 'Take care then of my *Cleopatra*,' exclaimed the artist. It is superfluous to say what picture the lady sent for.

FORTITUDE.

693. A MAN related to his friend the whole train of his misfortunes, and asked him what he would have done under such a pressure. 'I should have put an end to my life, like a hero,' said the friend. 'I acted still more like a hero,' said the other, 'for I had the courage to live on.'

MOTHER WIT.

694. A HUNCHBACK of Toulouse met a man, who had but one eye, very early in the morning. 'Good morning, friend,' said the one-eyed man; 'you have got your load upon your shoulders very early.' 'It is so early,' replied the hunchback, 'that I see you have only one window open.'

PUNCTUATION.

695. IN the priory of Ramessa there dwelt a very liberal prior, who caused these verses to be written over his door:

'Be open evermore, O thou my door,
To none be shut....to honest, or to poor.'

After his death there succeeded another prior, as covetous as his predecessor had been liberal, who kept the same verses there still, changing nothing therein but one point, which made them run thus :—

‘ Be open evermore, O thou my door,
To none,...be shut to honest, or to poor.’

MODERN GREEKS.

696. THE remembrance of their antient glory is not totally extinct. When Mr. Anson (the great lord Anson’s brother) was upon his travels in the East, he hired a vessel to visit the island of Tenedos. His pilot, an old Greek, as they were sailing along, said with great glee, ‘ There it was that *our fleet* lay.’ Mr. Anson asked, ‘ What fleet ?’ ‘ What fleet ?’ replied the old man (a little piqued at the question,) ‘ why our Grecian fleet at the siege of Troy.’

GYGES’ RING.

697. It is said of the magical ring of Gyges, that it had an extraordinary power of making the wearer invisible. A person being asked what a man of honour put into possession of such a ring, would do, replied, ‘ Just the same as he would do without it.’

SHAKSPEARE A GOOD COOK.

698. Two gentlemen were talking in a coffee-house, of the best method of dressing a beefsteak. One of them observed, that of all receipts, that given in the words of Macbeth, when he deliberates on the intended death of the king, is the best :

‘ If it were done, when ’tis done, then ’twere well
It were done quickly.’

A GAMBLER.

699. 'No,' said an Italian gambler after an intolerable run of ill luck, 'No, thou jade Fortune, thou mayest indeed cause me to *lose* thousands, but I defy thy utmost power to make me *pay* them.'

FRENCH NEGATIVE VICTORIES.

700. DURING the wars between England and France, in the time of Queen Anne, it was the constant practice, although the duke of Marlborough and the allies gained almost every battle, to make illuminations at Paris, in order to keep up the spirits of the people. Once when the English had totally defeated the French, and a great illumination was made as usual, a marshal of France said, 'The French people are like flints, the more you *strike* them, the more fire they make.'

A NICE DISTINCTION.

701. A HUSBAND whose ears were constantly assailed by the unruly tongue of his wife, bore the sound of her incessant alarum with the greatest patience. 'It is very clear,' said one of his friends, 'that you are afraid of your wife.' 'I am not afraid of *her*,' said the husband, 'but of the *noise* she makes.'

WHAT IS MORNING ?

702. 'MORNING,' said captain Grose, 'like noon and evening, has very different meanings in the mouths of different persons in different places. I once received an appointment to wait upon a noble lord the *next morning*. For want of duly considering his lordship's rank and amusements, I went at ten o'clock; but after knocking full half an hour, was convinced by a slipshod and gaping footman, that morning would not com-

mence in that house till some hours after the sun had passed the meridian.'

'On a similar appointment from a Welsh squire, I was at his door punctually at eight, having been told he was an early man; but judge my surprise, when his servant informed me, his master went out in the morning. On inquiry, I found morning in that house did not reach later than seven o'clock.'

THE FASHIONABLE DINNER HOUR. A. D. 1813.

703. A NOBLEMAN invited a party to dine; and the company assembled about seven o'clock, the hour appointed, and waited for him till they all began to discover symptoms of ennui and oscitancy. At last the noble host made his appearance, coolly looked at his watch, and ordered dinner; and as coolly said, addressing himself to the half-famished circle, 'I hope you don't think me late, I am just come from the Opera, where I only staid long enough to hear Catalani sing her first song: I had a great mind to encore the charming creature; but it is disagreeable to make one's company *wait*, so I denied myself that pleasure on your account!'

A DESPERADO.

704. A LADY was followed by a beggar who teased her very much to give him alms. On her refusing him, he quitted her with a deep sigh, saying, 'The alms I asked would have prevented me from executing my present resolution.' The lady was alarmed, thinking the man would make some rash attempt upon his own life. She called him back, and gave him a shilling; and asked him what he meant by what he had said. 'Madam,' said the fellow, 'I have been begging all day in vain, and had it not been for this shilling, I should have been obliged to work.'

WISDOM.

705. WISE men say nothing in dangerous times. --The lion called the sheep, to ask her if his breath was unpleasant : she said Aye ; and he bit off her head for a fool. He called the wolf and asked him ; he said No ; he tore him in pieces for a flatterer. At last he called the fox, and asked him : ' Truly,' said the fox, ' I have caught a cold and cannot smell.'

THE IRISH AND ENGLISH ROADS.

706. AN Englishman asked an Irishman if the roads in Ireland were good. ' Yes,' said the Irishman, ' so excellent, that I wonder you do not import some of them into England. We have the road to love strewn with roses ; the road of matrimony through nettles ; the road of honour through a duel ; the road to prison through the courts of law ; and the road to the undertaker's through the apothecary's shop.' ' Have you any road to preferment ?' ' No,' said the Irishman, ' not now—that road, since the Union, is removed to England : you pass through it to the king's palace, and I am told it is the *dirtiest* road in Great Britain.'

A STEWARD.

707. A RICH nobleman made his will, and left handsome legacies to all his domestics, except to his steward. On being asked the reason for this exception : ' I leave him out,' said he, because he has been in my service for more than twenty years.'

THE PHILOSOPHER'S STONE.

708. AN alchymist hearing of the singular merit of a neighbouring philosopher, took an opportunity of paying him a visit ; and expressed no small surprise at the small house and plain manner in which he lived. What a disgrace,' said he, 'is it to the opulent of this country,

that a person of your rare virtue should be compelled to live under this humble roof, and submit to so many privations ! But courage, my friend ! I am come to make amends to you for the cruelty of fortune : I possess an invaluable secret, and upon certain conditions I will impart it to you. In short, I have discovered the philosopher's stone. By the transmutation of metals, I doubt not we shall divide more gold than is to be found in the coffers of his holiness the pope, or the grand signior.' 'I thank you,' replied the philosopher; 'but your offer comes too late, and indeed is to me of no comparative value. I have long enjoyed a sound constitution and a tranquil mind, and have prudence enough to be content with the little I have. These are possessions which all your gold cannot purchase ; and so I think you are under a mistake—I, not you, have discovered the philosopher's stone.'

SIR JOHN CUTLER.

709. He was well known as a complete miser. He boasted that Providence had showed him peculiar favour, in causing his nativity on the 29th of February, so that he had but one birthday to keep in four years.

A PHYSICIAN.

710. A certain physician, when he visited his rich and luxurious patients, always went into their kitchens, and shook hands with their cooks. 'My good friends,' said he 'I owe you much, for you confer great favours upon me. Your skill, and your ingenious and palatable art of poisoning, enables us medical men to ride in our carriages ; without your assistance, we should all go on foot and be starved.'

AN EASTERN PHILOSOPHER.

711. PRIDE often keeps us in ignorance, by the re-

straint which it imposes upon our minds. An Eastern philosopher being asked by what means he had acquired so much knowledge, answered; 'I was never prevented by shame from asking questions.'

MY FATHER'S DEATH.

712. ONE being at supper said to his comrade, 'You heard the discourse of my father's death, let me entreat you to tell me how your father died!' He, being very intent on a dainty morsel, answered, 'Suddenly, suddenly.' [London Jests, 1712.]

This jest has been attributed to Tom Warton.

PROFESSIONAL MEN.

MEN in general, and particularly professional men, view objects through the media of their own pursuits, and express themselves accordingly.

713. A gentleman was thrown from a very restive horse in Hyde Park, and had the misfortune to break one of his legs. A crowd instantly collected around him, in which were a riding-master, a painter, a mathematician, a lawyer, and a clergyman. 'If this unfortunate man,' said the riding-master, 'had taken a few lessons in my school, that accident would not have happened.' 'How finely the figure was fore-shortened in falling!' said the painter. 'He made a parabolic curve,' said the mathematician. 'It is a hundred to one,' said the lawyer, 'if he has made his will.' 'Run for a surgeon,' said the clergyman, 'and let us assist the poor man in getting home.'

RECOLLECTION.

714. A NOBLE lord once asked a clergyman, who was dining at the bottom of the table, why the goose was always placed next the parson. 'Really,' said he, 'I can give no reason for it: but your question is so

odd, that I shall never see a goose again without thinking of your lordship.'

LOUIS XII.

715. HE one day reproached a prelate with the luxury of his manner of living, and told him that the clergy did not live so splendidly in the early ages. 'No, sir,' replied the prelate, 'not in the time of the *shepherd* kings.

THE CONTENTED HIBERNIAN.

716. THE tempers of the English and the Irish are strongly contrasted. The former is reserved, gloomy, and serious ; the latter is lively and gay, and expresses his thoughts in an animated and figurative style peculiar to himself.—An Englishman in company with an Hibernian indulged his propensity to croaking, by complaining of the badness of the weather, and the unpleasant place where he resided. The Hibernian declined arguing with him on the folly of his murmurs, but held out to him a picture of his own contentedness. 'When I have a hat on my head,' said he, 'my house is thatched ; when I have had a dinner, my house is furnished : as for weather, I care not if it rains or shines ; as for place, I am at home either in London or Londonderry : so hurrah ! may the shamrock, and Erin the little island of saints and liberty, flourish for ever !'

A KICKING HORSE.

717. A JOKE cannot have a happier effect than to dispel ill-humour and make a friend. Such was the result of an accidental meeting between a stranger and a crusty old gentleman, who as he was riding, his horse made an odd kind of motion with his fore-feet, so as to kick forward. 'This action of your horse,' cried the stranger, 'is quite new to me : many a horse have I

seen, but I never saw a horse kick *before*.' The old gentleman was so tickled with the pun, that he invited the stranger to dinner, and ever after made him a welcome guest.

QUAKERS.

718. AN address of the Quakers to James II. on his accession, preserved in Wanley's Common-place Book, is highly characteristic of that shrewd sect. 'We come to condole the death of our friend Charles ; and we are glad that thou art come to be our ruler. We hear that thou art a dissenter from the church of England, and so are we. We beg that thou wouldst grant us the same liberty that thou takest thyself, and so we wish thee well. Farewell.' [Harl. MS. 6030.]

EXPERIMENTS.

A VERBAL critic, such as 'slashing Bently,' who with perverted ingenuity tortured the text of Milton, and made it speak a new and strange language, has no relish for authors, either ancient or modern, unless he can discover passages in them upon which he can try experiments.

719. A noted oculist was in a room crowded with company, and was asked what he thought of such a lady—was it not a pity that she squinted ? 'Squint, sir !' replied the infallible doctor ; 'I wish every lady in the room did the same ; there is not, I assure you, a man in Europe can cure squinting but myself.'

A TRUE GHOST.

720. A CREDULOUS clown went to the clergyman of his parish, and told him with great symptoms of consternation, that he had seen a ghost, 'Where did you see it ?' was the question : 'Why,' said Diggory, 'as I were going, and please your reverence, by the church,

right up against the wall, I sees the ghost.' 'In what shape did it appear?' 'For all the world like a great ass. 'Go home and hold your tongue,' said the clergyman, 'for you are a very timid creature, and have only been frightened by your own shadow.'

DOMESTIC EXAMPLE.

721. How unreasonable is it for mothers to expect their daughters will tread with undeviating steps in the paths of virtue, if they do not lead them the way.—Madame B—— reprimanded her daughter on discovering that she had several private interviews with her lover; and ended her lecture by threatening to shut her up in a convent. 'I shall have no objection,' said the sarcastic young lady, 'if you will allow your handsome footman to wait upon me there.'

LOQUACITY.

THE historian Gibbon and the abbé Raynal were remarkable for their loquacity. The tongue of each was a perpetual alarm. For such encroachments upon the colloquial rights and privileges of others, the following is a very ingenious apology:—

722. A Gascon gentleman was reproached by one of his friends for monopolising conversation, and never listening to any one. 'Do you think,' said he in his vindication, 'that I am not attentive to what you and others think? Undeceive yourself; while I am speaking with my tongue, I am listening with my eyes. I can see persuasion in the looks, better than it can be expressed by words,—to save you trouble and breath, I give you before-hand a reply to every meditated objection. I enjoy the anticipation of eloquence, as much as I do to taste fruits ripe before their usual season.'

MATERNAL LOVE.

723. THE wife of a noble Venetian, having witnessed the death of her only son, gave herself up to the most violent grief. A priest endeavoured to console her: 'Recollect,' said he, 'the case of Abraham, whom God commanded to plunge his knife into the bosom of his only son, and he was ready to obey without a murmur.' 'Ah! my good friend,' she replied, 'God gave this command to a *father*—he would not have required such a sacrifice from a *mother*.'

724. *On Women. By Mrs. Hosland.*

'Ye are stars of the night, ye are gems of the morn,
Ye are dew-drops whose lustre illumines the thorn;
And rayless that night is, that morning unblest,
Where no beam in your eye lights up peace in the breast,
And the sharp thorn of sorrow sinks deep in the heart,
Till the sweet lip of woman assuages the smart:
'Tis hers o'er the couch of misfortune to bend,
In fondness a lover, in firmness a friend;
And prosperity's hour, be it ever confest,
From woman receives both refinement and zest;
And adorn'd by the bays, or enwreath'd with the willow,
Her smile is our meed, and her bosom our pillow.'

725. The following rhyme was often quoted by Dean Swift: 'A pigeon, a plover, a pig, and a lover, should never be cold.'

NAIVETE.

THE English language has no word to express the ideas which this word conveys. It neither means *simplicity* only, nor *freedom* only, nor *ignorance* only; but sometimes combines all these ideas together, in so comic a manner as cannot fail to cause a smile or a laugh-

726. A gentleman crossing the Severn at the Old Passage, asked the waterman if accidents did not sometimes happen by the boats being upset ; ‘ and in such cases,’ said he, ‘ persons must be often lost.’ ‘ O no,’ said one of the watermen, ‘ they are seldom lost :—To be sure my brother was drowned here not long ago, but we *found* him again a day or two after.’

727. A countryman very frequently called upon Huet bishop of Avranches, a scholar remarkable for the assiduity with which he pursued his studies. Although the countryman went to him upon particular business, he was always repulsed, with the answer that his lordship was employed in his library. ‘ I wish,’ said the indignant rustic, ‘ that the king would send us a bishop who has finished his studies.’

728. Susan, a country girl desirous of matrimony, received from her mistress a present of a five pound Bank note for her marriage portion. Her mistress wished to see the object of Susan’s favour ; and a very diminutive fellow, swarthy as a Moor and ugly as an ape, made his appearance. ‘ Ah Susan,’ said her mistress, ‘ what a strange choice you have made !’ ‘ La, ma’am,’ said Susan, in such hard times as these, when almost all the tall fellows are gone for soldiers, what more of a man than this can you expect for a five-pound note ?’

LONG AND SHORT TAILS.

729. A PERSON asked a farmer what he must give him to take his horses to grass. ‘ Why,’ said the farmer, for ‘ long-tailed horses four shillings, and for bob-tails six, per week.’ The person wondered at the difference of the charge, which the farmer at his desire explained. ‘ The reason is this : In the hot weather the long-tails are so busy in switching the flies, that they have not time to eat so much as the others ; but the bobtails have nothing else to do.’

A FRENCH LOVER.

730. A YOUNG lady of Languedoc, of a kind and ingenious temper, was courted by a *petit maitre* of Paris. After an absence of three months, she met him accidentally in the street, dressed much to his own satisfaction in a new peruke well powdered, as was then the fashion. Just as she began to express her joy at seeing him, a shower of rain came on ; at which her Narcissus discovered symptoms of great uneasiness ; and instead of expressing himself in a manner correspondent to her tender salutation, he began to run for shelter. 'What!' cried the indignant fair one, 'have we been three long months absent from each other, do you still love me, do you enjoy my company, and is it possible you can think of your wig being spoiled by a few drops of rain ?'

This anecdote which exhibits the levity and frivolousness of the French character, is taken from a work once very popular in France, called the *Gasconiana*. Copies are now very scarce.

A SPANISH OFFICER.

731. IT was the remark of a Spanish officer, 'that the French soldiers at the first onset in battle are more than men, but after it are less than women.'

AN ADDITIONAL REMARK.

732. IN a conversation between two friends, one said to the other, 'I have a remark to make to you, which affects me much.' 'What is that?' 'It is, that I find you grow old. But,' he continued, 'I have an additional remark to make, which affects me still more.' 'And pray what is that?' 'Why,' said he, 'I find I grow old too.'

A FAC-TOTUM.

733. A VAPOURING colonel of one of the City volunteer regiments, was complaining in a very self-sufficient

manner, that in consequence of the great negligence of his officers, he was obliged to do their duty, as well as his own. 'I am,' said he, 'my own captain, my own paymaster, and my own ensign.' 'You may add,' said a gentleman who knew his character well, 'your own *trumpeter*.'

REQUITED LOVE.

734. What words can be more delightful to the human ear, than the unexpected effusions of generosity and affection from a beloved woman! A young gentleman after great misfortunes came to a lady he had long courted, and told her his circumstances were become so reduced, that he actually wanted five guineas. 'I am very glad to hear it,' said she. 'Is this your affection for me?' he replied in a tone of despondency. 'Why are you glad?' 'Because,' she answered, 'if you want five guineas, I can put you in possession of five thousand.'

735. *Imitated from the Persian. By Mr. Weston.*

'The pure unsullied glass, with faithful grace,
Reflects the image of my Laura's face;
And what for all the fair it cannot do,
Reflects the image of her temper too.'

RETALIATION.

It is gratifying to observe, that the blow given by the insolent and reproachful is sometimes returned with double force.

736. An extravagant nobleman, soon after he had sold an estate upon which there were a hundred tenements, appeared at the court of Henry VIII. in costly new clothes. 'Am I not,' said he jocosely, 'a very strong man, to carry a hundred houses upon my back?' Cardinal Wolsey hearing this speech, said, 'The money you got for your houses would have been better

employed in paying your debts.' 'Thank you, my lord cardinal,' said the nobleman, 'for the hint ; and to give you a proof you have not thrown it away, here are two pence for you ; three halfpence for a calf's head which the lord my father bought of your father, his *butcher*, and the other halfpenny I pay for your kind advice.'

PRAISE IS CHEAP.

737. Louis XIV. commended an indifferent orator. A lady who was present expressed much surprise on hearing the king speak in such terms of praise. 'My opinion of the orator, madam,' said Louis, 'does not much differ from yours ; but if I think a few compliments can make a person happy, I must be ill-natured in the extreme not to bestow them.'

THE POWER OF NAMES.

738. In a large company in Ireland, a young officer, whose fondness for quizzing was increased by taking too much juice of the grape, gave a loose to his tongue, and even proceeded to abuse several of the party in scurilous and gross terms. None of them for some time were disposed to check his career, although all felt a wish to do so. At last a gentleman of stout dimensions and a powerful voice stepped forward, and measuring the military impertinent from head to foot with indignant eyes ; 'I am sorry, sir,' said he, 'to find you thus disgrace the livery of the king, which was bestowed upon you for better purposes than to insult his subjects. To be brief, your language and manners prove you to be unworthy of the name of a gentleman.—You look angry at my freedom : you are welcome to do so. Here is my card of address ; and if you choose to take as an insult what I only mean as a reprimand,—I am your nan for a round in the Phœnix park ; and know your nan to be *Patrick Mac Murdo O Flannagan*.' This was the name of a well-known knight of the trigger,

who had fought several duels. This name, pronounced in a thundering tone seemed to convey a bullet in every letter of it, had such an effect upon the young quizzier as completely to sober him, and he instantly quitted the room with that prudent velocity which impelled Gil Blas to decamp for fear of the bravo of Saragossa.

A DANCING MASTER.

739. A FRENCH dancing-master asked one of his friends, if it was true that Harley earl of Oxford was made lord high treasurer of England. He was answered in the affirmative. 'I am astonished,' said the dancing-master, 'that the queen should advance him to such an high office; for, will you believe it? he was my scholar for three whole years, and I could make nothing of him.'

'MERRY PASSAGES AND JESTS.'

THIS is the title of an unpublished manuscript preserved in the British museum. [Cotton, No. 6395.] The author was nephew to sir Roger le Strange.—The following specimens are judged to be some of the best.

Oxford Scholars outwitted

740. 'Some joviall scholars at Oxford going to an inne to frolicke, (but pennilesse,) when they had well warm'd their brains with clarett, call'd in mine host for a parting cuppe, and fell into a long and a deepe discourse about the Platonicall revolution, much inculcating the point into mine host (who seem'd to relish it pretty well,) and directing their speech often to him: But, says he, I doe not yet conceive whether all this discourse should tend. Why, sayd they, the morall of it is this: The reckoning is great, and we have not one farthing about us, therefore we

must needs crave your patience until this time 1000 yeares, when we shall be all here just as we are now (as we have by our conference made it very evident to you ;) you in your chair, with that very nose and belly, and your tapster there with his blew apron.

‘Gentlemen, says he, I would willingly satisfye you in any reasonable courtesie, but here are two maine obstacles : first, you confess you shall all be here this time 1000 yeares, punctually in every circumstance as you are now ; without money, then necessarily : but besides, says mine host, I doe very well remember, that ye were here this time 1000 yeares, and left a score unpaid ; discharge that first, and then I’ll trust you for the next.

741. A faulconer of sir Robert Mordant’s not well knowing his dog’s names, called one of them *Cinque*, whose name was *Sice* ; and my cousin Harry Mordant telling him his error, ‘Faith, sir,’ says he, ‘twas well I came so near, I am sure I was within an ace on’t.’

742. King James mounted his horse one time, who formerly used to be very sober and quiet, but then began to bound and prance. ‘The Dele O my sol, sirrah,’ sayes he, ‘an you be not quiet, I’s send you to the 500 kings in the house of commons : they’le quickly tame you.’

743. A lady tendered a dish of fruite to a gentleman at the table, with this compliment : ‘Sir, this is not forbidden fruite, if you please to eate.’ ‘Lady,’ says he, ‘by one sign infallibly it should, for I see it comes but just now from paradise.’

A GIG.

744. A CELEBRATED surgeon was called upon by a gentleman to attend a friend in the country. The gentleman offered to carry him to the place.—‘By what conveyance ?’ ‘I will take you down in my gig.’ ‘I am much obliged to you,’ said the wary disciple of

Esculapius, but I decline your offer, as I have at this time half a dozen *gig patients* under my care.'

METAPHYSICS.

745. AFTER all the advances in the science of metaphysics, so much boasted of in the Scotch universities, it is not clear that the improvements in it have been such as to render obsolete the simple description of the blacksmith of Glamis : 'Twa fouk disputin tha-gither ; he that's listenin disna ken what he that's speakin means ; and he that's speakin disna ken what he means himself—that's Metaphysics.'

A PAIR OF SPECTACLES.

746. 'MADAM,' said the keeper at the gate of Kensington gardens, 'I cannot permit you to take your dog into the garden.' 'Don't you see, my good friend,' said the lady, putting a couple of shillings into the keeper's hand, 'that it is a cat, and not a dog ?' 'Madam,' said the keeper, instantly softening the tone of his voice, 'I beg your pardon for my mistake ; I now see clearly, by the aid of the pair of spectacles you have been so good as to give me, that it is a cat, and not a dog.'

AMERICANS.

747. THE Americans are so inquisitive, that Dr. Franklin tells us, when he travelled in America, and wished to ask his road, he found it necessary to save time by prefacing his questions with,—'My name is Benjamin Franklin, I am by trade a printer, I am come from such a place, and am going to such a place ; and now tell me which is my road ?'

748. An English captain hailed an American vessel, and asked what she was laden with. The master wishing to set off his cargo to the greatest advantage,

answered, with a flourish of Bostonian rhetoric, 'Fruit and timber.' The fact was, the cargo consisted of potatoes and broomsticks.

A CONTRACTED NOTION.

749. 'IF you have not the use of our letters, and the knowledge of our books,' said a Chinese mandarin to an European missionary, 'what literature or what science can you have?'

AN IMPOSITION.

750. DR. BENTHAM, formerly divinity professor in Oxford, gave an imposition to a young student, who well knew that the doctor's avarice extended even to his stable. The following were the subject of the imposition, and the verses written upon it :—

'Omni ignotum pro magnifico est.'

'Averse to pamper'd and high-mettled steeds,
His own upon chopt straw Avaro feeds ;
Bred in his stable, in his paddock born,
What vast ideas they must have of corn!'

WHISTLING.

751. THE lady of Dr. Bentham was a woman of a disposition congenial with that of her *caro sposo*. She asked a person who applied for the place of footman in her family, if he could whistle, 'Why is that necessary?' said the man. 'Because,' said the lady, 'I expect my footman to whistle all the time he is in the cellar, to be certain he is not drinking while he is there.'

MNEMONICS.

752. A PERSON read lectures in London, and profes-

sed to teach the art of acquiring a good memory. The first thing, he said, that was necessary, was, to recollect what you had seen, or heard, or read. 'This rule,' a wag who was present observed, 'reminds me of Mrs. Glasse's receipt to roast a hare : 'First catch a hare.'

THE METEMPSYCHOSIS.

753. IN a certain company they talked much of the metempsychosis, or transmigration of souls. A coxcomb, who had teased every one with his impertinent discourse, said, 'I remember perfectly well that in the time of Moses I was the golden calf.' 'This is very probable,' said a lady ; 'for you now retain a very strong likeness to that animal, and have lost nothing but the gilding.'

SENSIBILITY.

754. A LADY who made pretensions to the most refined feelings, went to her butcher to remonstrate with him on his cruel practices. 'How,' said she, 'can you be so barbarous, as to put innocent little lambs to death ?' 'Why not ? madam,' said the butcher ; 'you would not eat them alive, would you ?'

A RECEIPT TO FILL A NEWSPAPER.

755. His printer came running to the publisher of a newspaper, and said, 'Sir, we have a space in the paper which we don't know how to fill.' 'Nothing is easier,' said the publisher : insert that 'last night an elderly gentleman, walking through St. James's park, was knocked down by two ruffians, and robbed of his money and his gold-headed cane.' The printer soon after came back again, and told his master there were several words too many.—'Why then,' said the publisher, 'you may leave out the gold-headed cane.'

THE ENERGY OF WORDS.

756. Two or three words sometimes paint a character better than whole volumes. The cardinal de Saint Cecile thus spoke of his brother, the famous cardinal Mazarin. 'My brother is a coward; only make a noise, and you'll frighten him to death.'

BOTANY BAY.

757. Some years ago, one of the convicts in Botany Bay wrote a farce, which was acted with great applause at the theatre in Port Jackson. The noted Barrington furnished the prologue, which he ended with these lines :—

' True patriots we; for he it understood,
We left our country,...for our country's good.'

A PUFF DIRECT.

758. An itinerant pedlar, wishing to recommend his razors to the gaping crowd, thus addressed them :—
' Gentlemen, the razors I hold in my hand were made in a cave by the light of a diamond in the famous province of Andalusia in Spain. They cut as quick as thought, and are as bright as the morning-star. A word or two more, and I am certain you will buy them. Lay them under your pillow at night, and you will find yourself clean shaved when you wake in the morning.'

THE ITALIAN VINEYARD-MAN.

759. *Per mancamento d' acqua bevo del acqua; se io havesse acqua, beverì el vino.* 'For want of water I am forced to drink water; if I had water, I would drink wine.' This speech is a riddle, and here is the solution: It was the complaint of an Italian vineyard-man, after a long drought, and an extremely hot summer, that had parched up all his grapes.

THE INCOMPARABLE RUSSIAN.

SURELY there are speeches which, as they express the feelings of a benevolent heart, and convey the sentiments of a noble mind, are to be estimated far above the merit and the praise of wit. The following anecdote will illustrate this observation :—

760. In the summer of the year 1810, as a lady was walking with her child upon the banks of the canal of St. Catharine at Petersburg, the child suddenly slipped from her hand, and fell into the canal. The mother in despair was going to plunge after her child, when a young man prevented her, and promised her instant assistance. He took a fine large spaniel that followed him, and throw him into the water, calling out as loud as he could, *Bring him, bring him.* The sagacious dog instantly dived ; and when he came up again, was seen holding the child by the shirt collar : he quickly swam to the shore, and laid his precious burthen gently down at the feet of the mother. She, in an ecstasy of joy, took the child in her arms, and divided her caresses between him and the dog. The father of the child appeared : ‘ I return you, sir,’ said he to the young man, ‘ a thousand thanks ; you have saved the life of my only child.’ ‘ Your thanks,’ said the young man, ‘ are more justly due to the kind providence of the Almighty, which brought me hither.’ ‘ Accept,’ said the father, ‘ a thousand rubles, as a reward for your humane exertions.’ ‘ Excuse,’ said the young man, ‘ my declining your handsome offer : you are, in fact, much more indebted to the exertions of my dog, than to me.’ ‘ Well, then,’ said the gentleman, ‘ I will give you a thousand rubles for your dog.’ ‘ A quarter of an hour ago,’ replied the young man, ‘ I did not think him worth a thousand rubles ; but now he has saved the life of a human being, I would not take ten thousand for him.’

The young man then rushed into the crowd of spectators, and the enraptured father and mother could not by any inquiry find out who he was. The emperor Alexander was informed of the affair, and was desirous

to discover the young man; but the search he ordered to be made, although diligently pursued, was fruitless.

O admirable youth! what an honour art thou to the name of Russian, or rather what an honour to human nature! Upon this occasion what an assemblage of humanity, piety, delicacy and disinterestedness, did thy words and actions display! I wish I was acquainted with thy name, that this tributary page might catch a ray of glory from the splendour of its insertion. Much more I wish that I could inscribe the particulars of this action, together with thy name, in indelible characters in the temple of Immortality, for the praise and the imitation of future ages.

A LIGURIAN SOLDIER.

761. 'WHEN I lived on the other side of the Alps,' said Howel, in his Familiar Letters, a 'gentleman told me a merry tale of a Ligurian soldier, who had got intoxicated in Genoa; and prince Doria going his rounds on horseback one night, the soldier took his horse by the bridle, and asked what the price of him was, for he wanted to buy a horse. The prince, observing in what state the man was, caused him to be taken into a house, and put to sleep; and in the morning he sent for him, and asked him what he would give for his horse.' 'Sir,' said the soldier, who had by that time recovered his sober senses, 'the merchant that would have bought him last night of your highness went away early this morning.'

FRIENDSHIP.

762. A GENTLEMAN went to congratulate a friend on his gaining some preferment. The friend, puffed up with his promotion, pretended he did not know who the gentleman was. Not in the least disconcerted at such a strange reception, he changed his tone, and said, 'I am come to condole with you upon the great misfortune that has befallen you;—yours is, indeed, a desperate

case : You are so completely deaf and blind as not to know your old friends !'

COSMOGRAPHY.

763. A BOASTING and ignorant traveller was accustomed to talk much of the various countries and cities he had visited. One of the company observed, that of course he was well acquainted with *Cosmography*. The traveller, supposing this to be the name of a city, said, ' We saw it at a distance ; it was a very grand looking place ; but as we were in haste, we could not visit it.

A PROVERB WELL APPLIED.

764. A GAMBLER, who was very eager and covetous said, after losing a large sum at play, ' I have at least the merit of losing my money without complaining. ' True,' said a lady, ' for great grief is dumb.'

ARISTOTLE'S RULES TRANSGRESSED.

765. SOME critics severely criticising a new tragedy, one of them said, that not one of Aristotle's rules was observed in it ; and that even the great ends of tragedy were forgotten, for the tragedy moved neither terror nor pity. ' Pardon me,' said a more humane judge, ' as to the latter ; for the tragedy certainly moves pity for the author.'

THE TWO SISTERS.

766. A LADY, very like her sister, was looking in the glass ; and seeing a face there, said to her sister who was standing behind her, ' I am surprised you can think of going into company with such a dirty face.' ' The remark,' said the sister, ' is not so *a propos* as you imagine, for the face you see in the glass is not mine but your own.'

THE OXFORD CHURCHWARDEN.

767. MR. MALBON the apothecary was called to attend an Oxford churchwarden, whose head was full of parish business, and was not very conversant with expressions out of the way of the vulgar tongue. 'I have a great soreness in my breast,' said the churchwarden. 'That arises,' said the apothecary, 'from a febrile affection in the thorax ;—but pray let me ask you, do you expectorate?' '*Expect a rate?*' said the churchwarden; 'no, sir, thank God, that parish business is settled, I made a rate last week.'

THE NIMRODS OF OXFORD.

768. 'THESE Oxonians,' said the late duke of B—, 'annoy me very much in my hunting. There is so large a field of them to-day, that if the vice-chancellor and the proctors were here, I should have the whole University riding tally-ho after my dogs.' 'Do you wish,' said one of the duke's huntsmen, a shrewd fellow, 'to keep these Oxford scholars away?' 'How can that be done?' said the duke. 'Nothing easier,' rejoined the wag: 'In the front of your dog-kennel build a *library*.'

A PACK OF HOUNDS.

769. You must go to Shakspeare for a general description of a pack; but if you want the particular names given more than one hundred years ago, here they are in couples, taken from an old song, at the service of any sportsman:

'Juno and Jupiter, Tinker and Trotter,
Singwell and Merryboy, Captain and Cryer,
Gangwell and Ginglebell, Fairmaid and Fryer,
Beauty and Bonnylass, Tanner and Trouncer,
Foamer and Forrester, Bonner and Bouncer,

Gander and Gundamore, Jowler and Jumper,
Tarquin and Tarmerlane, Thunder and Thumper.'

FRONTI NULLA FIDES.

770. A GENTLEMAN heard a coward talk in a hectoring manner in praise of courage. 'He puts me in mind,' said the gentleman, 'of what I once saw at a puppet-show, a hare beating a drum.'

THE SCHOOL BOY MATCHED.

771. A MASTER read to his scholars the funeral oration of marshal Turenne, written by the celebrated Flechier. One of the scholars said to another, 'When wilt thou be able to write as well as Flechier?' 'As soon,' said the other, 'as you are able to fight as well as Turenne.'

A CLERGYMAN'S MENACE.

772. A CLERGYMAN, in the time of Cromwell, being deprived of his living for Non-conformity, said to his friends, 'That if he was deprived, it should cost a hundred men their lives.' This strange speech being noised abroad, he was summoned before a magistrate, and thus explained his intention: 'Should I lose my benefice,' said he, 'I am resolved to practise physic, and then I may, if I get patients, kill a hundred men.'

THE CONNOISSEURS.

773. A PAINTER was censured for not taking good likenesses when he printed portraits. He was piqued at the censures of his friends, and wished to ascertain if the fault imputed to him was real or not. He informed them he had finished a portrait of a person they knew perfectly well, which he flattered himself was nature itself. They all hastened to see the picture; and

all, without hesitation, pronounced it to be one of the very worst attempts he had ever made at a likeness. 'You are mistaken, friends,' said a voice from the head of the picture, 'it is myself.' These words were spoken by the person, who had entered into the stratagem of the painter, and put his head through the canvas.

HOW TO TAME A SHREW.

774. 'WHAT method shall I pursue,' said a French husband, 'to conquer the fury of my wife? At every little trifle that crosses her humour, she frowns, frets, rages and storms, and my house seems too small to contain her. Her whole face is distorted, her hair seems to stand erect, her eyes dart flashes of lightning, and her cheeks look like two red-hot balls, while words as pointed as needles and as sharp as razors issue from her expanded mouth. In short, she is a perfect Medusa, and petrifies me with horror to behold her.'

'One method I will try to reclaim her. She has a great idea of her own beauty: I will take her to the looking-glass; and if the view of her own hideous physiognomy does not restore her to a state of reason and tranquillity, the case is desperate: I must send her to an hospital of lunatics, and shall not be surprised to hear her pronounced incurable.'

'The Cambridge Merry Jests; or, The only Way to be Witty. The sixth edition: London.'

The following are extracts from a curious and scarce work with the above-mentioned title, a copy of which is preserved in the British Museum. This copy has no date, but it was probably published soon after the Restoration.

A TRUE SCOT.

THAT there has always been a traditionary prejudice against the Scotch by the English, long before the bit-

ing sarcasms of Dr. Johnson, Churchill, and the 'North Briton' appeared, the following old jest will prove :

775. 'A certain English bishop, by nation a Scotchman, having been informed that a neighbour of his had said he was a *false* Scot, which made him send for him, and ask him, pressingly, if he said so. The fellow absolutely denied it. 'Well, what did you say?' said the bishop. 'My lord,' replied the man, 'I only said you were a *true* Scot : ' which cut him to the heart, as much as if he had bid him read Cleveland's Satire upon his countrymen.'

776. 'A pleasant country-fellow told his companions, that he could have what weather he pleased. At which they laughed, and said, 'twas impossible ; for the planets, as they had heard, governed the world, and the weather too. 'You are fools,' said he ; 'for what weather pleases God, pleases me ; and now I hope I have made it out.'

777. 'Some Scotchmen being in company with some English, they began to banter and jeer one another. Says one of the Englishmen, 'Was not he a great rogue that sold his king?' (meaning Charles I., who fled to the Scots for protection.) 'Yes,' says the Scotchman ; 'but he was a greater that gave the money.' Adds another, 'But he was the greatest of all that cut off his head.'

S. P. Q. R.

'A jest touching these letters, S. P. Q. R.
(*Senotus, Populusque Romanus.*)

778. It so happened, that a new pope being elected merely for his devotion and austerity of life, as using an extraordinary spare diet, and seldom seen so much as to smile ; yet, after his inauguration, coming to sit in *pontificalibus*, he used to feed high, to laugh heartily,

and to countenance jesters and buffoones to make him merry at his table ; which being observed, one sets up these foure words, being correspondent to the foure former letters, *Sancte Pater, Quare Rides ?* To which the next day was underwritten, *Rideo Quia Papa Sum.*'

779. *Verses written on a Window in the Highlands of Scotland, by Aaron Hill.*

Scotland, thy weather's like a modish wife,
Thy winds and rains maintain perpetual strife ;
So termagant awhile her thunder tries,
And when she can no longer scold she cries.

'COFFEE-HOUSE JESTS.'

THE following specimens of a publication with the above title are extracted from a very scarce copy preserved in the British Museum. The fifth edition of the work was printed in 1688.

780. 'A gentleman that used to be smart in his repartees, once had in his hat a very gallant and rich knot of gold and silver ribbon, which some young ladies had a mind to, if they could get it handsomely, without begging of it ; and so one of them said to him, 'Sir, you have a very fine favour in your hat ;' and so they said all. 'Pray, madam,' says he to the first, 'tell me truly, do you like it ?' 'Yes indeed, sir,' says she. 'Why then,' says he, 'if you had not liked it, I should have flung it into the fire ; but since you say you like it, I protest I like it the better, and am resolved to keep it for your sake.'

781. 'An Oxonian meeting with a bully in London, who it seems, swore that he would take the wall of all persons he met, the Oxonian was going between the wall and him ; with that the bully began to thrust him back, and told him he did not use to give every coxcomb the wall. 'No,' says the Oxonian, 'what good will the wall

do me without the house?' 'But,' says the bully, 'I don't mean to give every fool the wall.' 'But, sir,' replies the Oxonian, 'I do.' And so let him have it, and marched away.'

A similar adventure and a similar retort are attributed to Dr. Johnson.

ANNIBAL CARRACHI

782. SAID one day to his brother Agostino, who prided himself upon writing good verses and laughed at him for his want of poetical genius: 'Poets paint with words, and painters speak with the pencil.'

CHINESE PHILOSOPHY.

783. A MANDARIN, who was proud of appearing with a number of jewels to every part of his robe, was once accosted by an old bonze, who, following him through several streets, and bowing often to the ground, thanked him for his jewels. 'What do you mean?' said the mandarin; 'for I have not given you any of my jewels.' 'No,' replied the bonze; 'but you have let me look at them, and that is as much as you can do yourself; so there is no difference between us, except that you have the trouble of guarding them, an employment I do not like, and I have not.'

A PAIR OF MISERS.

784. GUY, the founder of the noble hospital which bears his name, was a bookseller, and lived in Stock's-market, between Cornhill and Lombard-street. He was so complete a pattern of parsimony, that the famous miser Vulture Hopkins once called upon him to crave a lesson on the art of saving. Being introduced into the parlour, Guy, as it was in the evening, and dark, lighted a candle. Hopkins said, 'Sir, I always thought myself perfect in the art of getting and husbanding money; but as I am informed you far exceed

me, I have taken the liberty of waiting upon you, to be satisfied upon that subject.' 'O sir,' said Guy, 'if that be all your business, we can just as well talk it over in the dark.' Having thus said, he put out the candle. This was enough for the *Vulture* : he took his leave, with this acknowledgement : 'I thought myself perfect in the arts of saving, but you have taught me that I had one important lesson still to learn : I thank you for your instruction, and you may be assured my future conduct shall make amends for my past prodigality in candles.'

That he carried his resolution into effect, seems probable from these lines of Pope :

'When *Hopkins* dies, a thousand lights attend
The wretch, that living sav'd a candle's end.'

PRESENCE OF MIND.

PRESENCE of mind is that rare and desirable disposition which displays itself in a temper intrepid and serene. It qualifies persons to take advantage of every occurrence of the moment, to profit instantly by the mistakes and faults of others, and to be fertile in all resources that peculiar situations may oblige them to fly to. A man may be a man of genius, or of business, but he cannot be a hero without presence of mind.

785. When the army of Cyrus was just going to engage that of Cræsus, they were thrown into great consternation by hearing a clap of thunder, which they took as a bad omen. The genius of Cyrus immediately suggested an interpretation of the incident to reanimate the courage of his men. 'My friends,' said he, 'the gods declare in our favour ; let us march on : we will follow thee, O great Jupiter, who thus givest to us the lucky omen of victory.'

786. The Mareschal de Faber, a distinguished French officer, during a siege was pointing out a place ; and just as he was speaking, a musquet ball carried off

the finger with which he was pointing: he instantly stretched out another finger, and continued the conversation,—‘Gentlemen, as I was observing—’

787. While commodore Anson’s ship, the *Centurion*, was engaged in close fight with the rich Spanish galleon which he afterwards took, a sailor came running to him, and cried out, ‘Sir, our ship is on fire very near the powder magazine.’ ‘Then pray, friend,’ said the commodore, not in the least degree discomposed, ‘run back and assist in putting it out.’

A HINT TO PORTRAIT-PAINTERS.

788. A PAINTER took the exact likeness of a gentleman of a very dark complexion. The gentleman left the picture at the painter’s house long after it was finished, and neglected to pay for it. The painter, tired with waiting so long for his money, hit upon this expedient to obtain it. ‘Sir,’ said he to the gentleman of the bronze visage, ‘my neighbour the innkeeper at the Blackamoor’s Head wants a new sign, and has desired me to paint him one.’ ‘What then?’ said the gentleman. ‘What then!’ replied the painter; ‘Why, if you do not immediately pay me for your likeness, and take it away, my neighbour the innkeeper shall have it.’

THE CHURCH OF ROME.

789. A PROTESTANT who had a termagant wife, being asked what the Church of Rome was like, answered, ‘Truly I think that Church as much like my wife as any thing.’ ‘Why so?’ ‘Because,’ replied the Protestant, ‘She commands what she pleases, without regard of either God or man, and then curses all the family to the devil, if they give her not instant obedience.’

NEWSPAPERS.

790. ‘WAITER,’ said a traveller at a country inn,

'bring me a newspaper.' 'Sir,' said the waiter, 'we are badly off for papers at present : we have lost the *Day* ; we have neither *Sun*, nor *Star* ; a captain of a ship is reading the *Pilot* ; and the only papers you can have are *Old Times*.'

THE IRISH BRIGADE.

791. Louis XIV. complained to the colonel of the Irish Brigade, that his men were the most boisterous and ungovernable of any in the French service. 'The truth of your majesty's observation is very clear,' replied the colonel, 'and very generally acknowledged, for all your enemies say the same.'

The Rev. S. Smith, in one of his lectures at the Royal Institution, remarked that this was one of the best retorts that ever was made.

FAMILY SECRETS.

792. 'There was a lady of the west country that gave great entertainment at her house to most of the gallant gentlemen thereabouts ; and amongst others, sir Walter Raleigh was one. This lady, though otherwise a stately dame, was a notable good housewife ; and in the morning betimes she called to one of her maids that looked to the swine, and asked, 'Are the pigs served ?' Sir Walter Raleigh's chamber was near the lady's, so as he heard her ask this question. A little before dinner, the lady came down in great state into the great chamber, which was full of gentlemen ; and as soon as sir Walter Raleigh set eye upon her, 'Madam,' said he, 'are the pigs served ?' The lady answered you know best whether you have had your breakfast.'

HIGH SPIRIT.

793. AT the siege of Namur, the duke of Luxemburgh commanded the French army. One of his soldiers deserted to king William III., who asked him the reason that induced him to come over to him. 'The rea-

son,' said he, 'is because our army is half dead for want of provisions ; but in spite of their distress, I advise you not to cross the river to attack them ; for if you do, they will give you such a beating as will make you repent your imprudence as long as you live.'

CIVILISATION.

794. A TRAVELLER described the sad catastrophe of being cast away with a few companions upon an unknown shore. 'After walking several miles,' said he, 'in a dreary and desolate country, just as we were giving ourselves over to despair, we espied a gibbet with a man hanging upon it. A sight so very promising could not fail to raise our spirits, as we were convinced we were now coming into a *civilised* part of the world.'

PRACTICE BETTER THAN PROFESSIONS.

795. AN Athenian who was deficient in eloquence, but very brave, when one of his competitors in a long and flowery speech made great professions of what he would do, arose and said, 'Men of Athens ! all that he has promised, I will perform.'

AN OLD CAVALIER.

796. WHEN Oliver Cromwell first coined half-crowns, an old cavalier, looking at one of them, read this inscription, *God with us*, on one side ; and *The commonwealth of England*, on the other side : 'I see said she, 'that God and the commonwealth are on opposite ideas.'

STATESMEN OF THE NORTH.

797. IN the recluse vales of Cumberland, live an independent order of men. who are called *Statesmen*.

They transmit from father to son with little variation their original family property ; and their wealth consists chiefly in large flocks of sheep. Their manners are simple, and their hospitality is such as to present a resemblance of the patriarchs described by Moses and the heroes of Homer. ‘ I recommend you,’ said a statesman to a traveller, whom he had entertained in his house some days, ‘ to go to the valley that lies on the other side of that blue mountain, there you will find the house of my neighbour, tell him you come from me : I know him not ; but fear not a hearty welcome, *for our sheep mingle upon the mountains.*’

JOHN BULL TALKING FRENCH.

THE assertion may be hazarded, that the English make as many, or perhaps more ridiculous blunders with respect to the French, than the French do with respect to the English language.

998. A Johnny Bull, with his clothes covered with dust, arrived at Paris. ‘ Garcon,’ said he to the servant who attended him, ‘ *apportez moi une broche.*’ Away went the servant ; and great was the amazement of Johnny his master, to see the cook bringing him a large spit, instead of his servant returning with a coat-brush.

799. An English gentleman, intending to speak in praise of a lady who had fine eyes, began by saying *Elle est bossue*, instead of saying *Elle a beaux yeux*. The company of course looked at her back, instead of her face.

WHAT IS A BUREAU ?

800. In a company in London, where a celebrated actress was present, a French gentleman related a story of a person who was murdered during the tyranny of Robespierre, whilst writing in his *bureau*. ‘ Bless me,’ exclaimed the astonished actress, ‘ what unheard-of cruelty ! to kill a man by cramming him into a chest of drawers !’

QUEEN BESS.

301. A COURTIER came running to her, and with a face full of dismay, 'Madam,' said he, 'I have bad news for you; the party of tailors mounted on mares, that attacked the Spaniards, are all cut off.' 'Courage! friend,' said the queen; 'this news is indeed bad; but when we consider the nature of the quadrupeds and the description of the soldiers, it is some comfort to think we have lost neither *man* nor *horse*.'

A DREAM.

302. AN old dowager, extravagantly fond of cards, went to church with apparent devotion, but lamenting that Sunday prevented her enjoyment of her favourite pool of quadrille. Soon after the sermon was begun she fell into a slumber, and dreamed she was playing at cards, and lost all her money and jewels to a gentleman very well dressed, but of a disagreeable appearance. After playing a long time with the same ill luck, she continued to dream that she was reduced, as a last resource, to stake her three children. She lost them to this ill-looking gentleman, who soon took himself off, and she discovered who he was by his cloven feet, and a long tail stretched out beyond the flaps of his coat, and the strong smell of sulphur which he left behind him. 'What is this strong smell?' said she, as she awoke in a great fright. 'It proceeds,' said a lady in the pew with her, 'from a bottle of salts, which I apply to your nose, that you may awake, and hear the conclusion of the sermon.'

ANCIENT GREEKS MODERN.

303. How highly do we elevate the dignity of the Greeks and Romans by calling them the *ancients*! The Jews, the Chinese, and the bramins speak in a far different manner of them now, as the Egyptians did formerly. An Egyptian priest, conversing with Solon, said

to him, 'You Greeks are always children ; you have no knowledge of antiquity, and no antiquity of knowledge.'

A CONVERT.

804. A FRENCH officer who was a prisoner upon his parole at Reading, met with a Bible : he read it ; and was so struck with its contents, that he was convinced of the folly of sceptical principles, and of the truth of Christianity, and resolved to become a Protestant. When his gay associates rallied him for taking so serious a turn, he said in his vindication, 'I have done no more than my old school-fellow Bernadotte, who is become a Lutheran.' 'Yes, but he became so,' said his associate, 'to obtain a crown.' 'My motive,' said the Christian officer, 'is the same ; we only differ as to *place* : The object of Bernadotte is to obtain a crown in Sweden,—mine is to obtain a crown in heaven.'

A FAIR INFERENCE.

805. A GENTLEMAN of reduced fortune came to a person who had formerly been his servant, to borrow money of him. The upstart servant gave him a very mortifying reception, and asked in a haughty tone, 'Sir, why do you give me all this trouble ? upon my honour I have no money to lend you, or any one else.' 'I am certain what you say is false,' said the gentleman ; 'for if you were not rich, you dare not be so saucy.'

THE MOORS.

806. THERE was a cowardly Spanish soldier, who, in a defeat the Moors gave, ran away among the foremost of his countrymen. Afterwards, when the army generally fled, this soldier was missing. Whereupon it was reported by some that he was slain. 'No, sure,' said one, 'he is alive, for the Moors do not eat hare's flesh.'

THINGS REVERSED.

807. A GRAMMARIAN seeing an actor, who when he exclaimed 'O Jupiter!' held down his hand, and when he exclaimed 'O earth!' held it up, said, 'This man has committed a solecism with his hand.'

A DIALOGUE.

808. THE following dialogue between an uncle, and his nephew was overheard in St. James' Park, in consequence of the party talking very loud.

Nephew. My dear uncle, I have the pleasure to inform you, that I am just returned from Perryvale, one of the sweetest villages imaginable. The sun was shining with brilliant lustre, the trees were clothed with the richest foliage, the birds were warbling on every spray, and a silvery stream meandered through the valley :

'There every bush with nature's music rings,
There every breeze bears health upon its wings.'

To complete my feelings of delight in this new Arcadia, I called at the manor-house upon the old squire, and he introduced me to his daughter as she was walking in the garden. It seemed a little paradise, with an Eve beautiful as innocent in it. Her eyes sparkled with living lustre, her cheeks glowed with health ; and she gave me a new-blown rose, and smiled so sweetly at the same time, that all the arrows of Cupid's quiver could not have made a deeper wound in my poor heart. O what a delicious village ! O what an enchanting girl !

Uncle O what a perfect madcap ! O what a tedious rhapsody ! These are *first impressions* with a vengeance ! Why, boy, while you were ranting at such a rate, you put me in mind of the puffing style of an auctioneer, and the gaudy colouring of a painter of signs and tea-boards. But, to be serious, I think there is not a tittle of real matter of fact in all you have been saying. Why, only a few days ago I passed through this

very same place. I shall not soon forget it, for I was almost tired to death with walking through it, and so cold that I wished for a great-coat. I saw nothing to admire in the village ; it was like most others, very still and very stupid. You talk of the trees and the birds : as to the trees, there is hardly a stick of good timber in the whole place ; if you were to cut them down, they would only sell for fire-wood. The only good birds I saw there, were a few geese in a pond, and I don't think the whole lot would fetch a two-pound note in Leaden-hall market. I saw the squire's daughter, but felt none of your raptures, I assure you. Indeed why should I ? for I know her father cannot give her a farthing. After all, there may be some mistake. Surely it was not Perryvale you saw, but some other place. I am positive I was there ; and that I might examine every thing the better, I hardly took off my spectacles the whole day.

Nephew. My dear uncle, I am certain we have been talking of the very same place, and the very same persons. And now, if you will excuse my freedom, I will tell you the reason why you and I viewed these same objects in such different lights, I am no *Œdipus*, but I solve the emigma thus—*I am young, and you are old.*

A MAN OF FAMILY.

809. 'OF what family can you boast of being descended ?' said a Castilian guerilla to an English grenadier. 'I am descended from Don Pedro Nunez Velasquez de Pedrillo, who was chief trumpeter to the emperor Charles V. at the battle of Pavia.' 'I cannot pretend,' said the grenadier, looking very archly at the don, 'to trace my pedigree so far back as you do ; but this I can aver, that my parents *made more noise in the world* than your boasted ancestor don Pedro, the great trumpeter ; for my father was a drummer, and my mother cried oysters.'

MANAGEMENT.

810. 'A SKILFUL painter,' said a lively Frenchman, 'knows what objects to bring forward to meet the eye, and what to place in the back ground. There may be defects in a gentleman's figure, as well as freckles in a lady's face, that it is prudent to throw into shadow. Women understand how to manage these matters much better than we do; and so do not imagine that veils are always worn merely for the sake of ornament. Observe madame C* * * ; she has bad teeth, so she generally keeps her lips closed, and laughs only with her eyes.'

A COLD CANDID CRITIC.

811. A CERTAIN poet, not wishing to incur the censure with which Juvenal lashes authors for adding to the miseries of residing at Rome, by reciting their works in the dog-days, resolved to pursue an opposite course; so he kept his verses till the winter. He then read them to a friend, who was a competent critic, in extremely cold weather. The reading was protracted so long, that the critic had almost exhausted his vital warmth, as well as his patience. At last the poet paused, and with no small degree of modest assurance asked his friend what he thought of his production. 'To deal fairly with you,' said the critic, 'and to confess the impression you have made upon my feelings, if there had been more fire in your verses, or if your verses had been in the fire, I should not have been so nearly frozen to death as I am.'

A VOYAGE TO INDIA.

812. A GENTLEMAN well known for his facetiousness was dining with a nobleman, and as the company were talking of a voyage to India, some glasses of Cape wine were handed round the table. All the guests expressed their praises of its exquisite flavour, and wished much to have a second taste of it. When the gen-

tleman found it was in vain to indulge this hope, he turned to the person who sat next him, and, happily alluding to the voyage to India, said, 'As we cannot *double the Cape*, suppose we go back to *Madeira*.'

POWER.

813. 'I CAN call spirits from the vasty deep,' said the boasting Owen Glendower. 'But will they come when you call?' was the searching question to bring his power over the beings of the invisible world to the test.

814. A gentleman said, 'I command more than any man, even than the duke of York, who is at the head of the army.' 'How so?' inquired a friend. 'Why,' replied the gentleman, 'I keep one servant, and before I can get him to do any thing I want, I am obliged to command him fifty times over.'

ANALOGIES.

DEAN SWIFT, wishing to raise a laugh against certain fanciful etymologists, wrote a ludicrous essay to prove that the English was the primitive language, and that many names, such as Sophocles, Alexander the Great, Astrologer, &c. were derived from it. Many additions, as the following instances show, may be made to his list; and they may be easily increased by observing the whimsical efforts which the common people make to accommodate classical and other names to their own notions.

815. Four English sailors were asked to what ships of war they belonged. The first said, 'I am a foremast-man in the *dead louse*' (the *Dedalus*.) The second said, 'I am going on board the *bonny pheasant*' (the *Bienfaisant*.) The third said, 'I am just come from the *Peg of the sea*' (the *Pegase*.) The fourth observed, 'I think I shall have a better birth than any of

you, for I have left the *all sides* (the Alcide,) and am going upon a cruise in the *ale-house*' (the Eolus.)

A CICERONE.

816. A PARTY of gentlemen went to see an old mansion, where there was a collection of pictures. An old woman was cicerone upon the occasion, and she gave them some laughable proofs how well qualified she was for her office. 'By whom was that beautiful enamel painted?' said one of the party. The answer was, 'By John *Pettitoes*:' the painter's name was Pettitot. 'If you look on the opposite side of the room,' said the cicerone, 'you will see *The Misers of Squinting Gnats Eyes* (Quintin Matsys.) The picture that is nearest to it is by *Paul Weary Knees* (Paul Veronese;) and its companion is by *Cannibal Scratch ye*' (Hannibal Caracci.)

ULYSSES,

817. Two scholars were talking of Ulysses, as described in Homer's *Odyssey*. 'When he killed all the suitors of his queen Penelope,' said one, 'he certainly shot with a very *strong* bow.' 'True said the other; and when he told all his marvellous stories to the king of Phœacia, of Circe turning men into swine, of Calypso that could confer immortality, and the Cyclops Polypheme, who took a tree for a walking-stick, he as certainly shot with a very *long* bow.'

THE VICAR OF BRAY MATCHED.

818. WILLIAM marquis of Winchester being asked how he continued to be of the council in the troublesome times of divers princes, said, 'I never attempted to be the director of others, but always suffered myself to be guided by the most, and mightiest. I have always been a willow, and not an oak.'

THE GERMANS.

It has been said that the members of the French Academy once made it a question, Whether it was *possible* for a German to be a wit. Had they seriously examined the subject, they would have found that the repartee of a German wit, as well as the edge of a German sabre, is as sharp, and cuts as deeply as their own.

819. Frederick of Prussia, in the midst of his *greatness*, not only condescended to patronise a manufactory of china at Berlin, but to share in the profits. One day he said to Quintus Icilius, a colonel in his army, and the son of a *potter* in Magdebourg, 'When you give yourself such haughty airs, as one of my officers, you surely forget the low occupation of your father.' 'And you, sire,' retorted Icilius, very severely nettled, 'when you so far lose sight of your royal dignity, as to use such language to me, forget that there is but one step between a dealer in pottery and a dealer in china.'

820. Frederick, great conqueror as he was, sustained a severe defeat at Cöslin in the war of 1756. Some time after, at a review, he jocosely asked a soldier, who had got a deep cut in his cheek, 'Friend, at what alehouse did you get that scratch?' 'I got it,' said the soldier, 'at Cöslin, where your majesty paid the reckoning to the Russians.'

PROFESSIONAL JEALOUSY.

821. 'I WILL admit,' said Hogarth, 'all the world to be competent judges of my pictures, except those who are of the profession.'

CLASSICAL APPLICATIONS.

822. Two Oxford scholars being at a loss for amusement, one said to the other, suppose we cap verses.

'No,' said his companion, 'for I should think that as dry work as chopping logic. Suppose we repeat, in the alternate style of Virgil's shepherds, all the ingenious applications we can recollect of passages in the Classics; that have been made to modern subjects.'

'Agreed,' said the other, 'provided we do not alter the original text, nor pilfer from Jortin or Beresford.'

A. It was aptly said of a *barber* shaving, as Virgil said of a flying dove, *Radit iter liquidum*.

B. What think you of the *skaiter*, who, like Fame,

Mobilitate viget, viresque acquirit cundo.

A. *Sadler* going up with his *balloon*, may be supposed to exclaim,

*Tentanda via est, qua me quoque possim
Tollere humo, victorque virum volitare per ora.*

B. George Huddesford prefixed this motto to his verses on a favourite *cat* :

Mi-cat inter omnes.

A. If it be fair play to assail me with a pun, take another in return. A friend of ours not long ago gave wine to a party. They expressed their dislike of his Port; so he told them, if they would have patience, he would go to his cellar and fetch them some wine they would like better. After they had waited some time, he returned with some *claret*, which they pronounced to be excellent. A wag who was present said, 'Our host reminds me of old Fabius Maximus, who

*' Cunctando restituit rem ;
Ergo magisque magisq; ac viri nunc gloria claret.*

B. Tom Warton prefixed this motto to his '*Companion to the Guide and Guide to the Companion* :

Tu mihi dux commiti, tu comes ipsa duci.

This line seemed so exactly to correspond with the title, that wagers were laid Tom Warton was the author of it. The sceptics lost their bets, for it occurs in Ovid's Epistle of Hypermnestra to Lynceus.

A. If you quote mottos, I will pay you in your own coin.

Malone published a pamphlet to prove that the manuscripts produced by Ireland and attributed to Shakspeare were gross forgeries. Malone inserted in his title-page a part of the description which Virgil gave of the impious Salmoneus, and applied it to Ireland with singular felicity :

*Demens, qui nimbos et non imitabile fulmen
Ære et cornipendunt sonitu simul arat equorum !*

B. Dr. Joseph Warton made a good hit, when he heard that John the painter was going to be executed on board the Arethusa frigate. 'John,' said the doctor, 'may adopt the invocation of Virgil :

'Extremum hunc, Arethusa, mihi concede laborem.'

A. Felix Vaughan, an able barrister, was supposed to be implicated with Horne Tooke, Hardy, and others, who were afterwards tried for high treason. This matter was canvassed by the privy-council ; and when it was ascertained that Felix Vaughan had cautiously stopped short of the risks which others had run, Mr. Dundas exclaimed,

'Felix, quem faciunt aliena pericula cautum !'

B. You recollect to whom Tibullus addressed the following beautiful lines. Louis Racine may be said to have consecrated them : he was a pious Catholic, and applied them to his crucifix :

*Te spectem, suprema mihi cum venerit hora,
Te teneam moriens deficiente manu.*

A. I have kept back the application of a passage, as

my *corps de reserve*, which I think will put you *hors de combat*. It is unquestionably the happiest allusion I ever met with.

You have doubtless heard of the famous cardinal Poole, archbishop of Canterbury. Sandolet, a learned man, advised him to apply himself to the philosophy of the antients, giving it the preference to all other studies. 'At the period, said the cardinal, 'when the world was obscured by the darkness of Paganism, the philosophy you recommend did certainly excel all other pursuits; but since the mists of ignorance have been cleared away by the bright beams of the Gospel, Christian knowledge, derived from the study of the holy Scriptures, has justly gained the preference: in short, the pagan philosophy you so much admire is now, exactly as Tenedos was described by Virgil:

' *Notissima fama*
Insula, dives opum, Priami dum regna manebant;
Nunc tantum sinus, et static, malefida carinis.'

EPITAPHS.

823. THERE are few topics on which the scourge of wit may be more fairly exercised, than on the flattery and misrepresentation too often diffused over vast surfaces of sepulchral marble in compliment to the dead. Dr. Friend was an epitaph-writer of very prolix, but indeed elegant sentences in Latin. The following neat epigram was addressed to him:

' Friend, in your epitaphs I'm griev'd
So very much is said;
One half will never be believ'd,
The other never read.'

CONSTANCY.

824. A ROMAN lady who remained a widow in the prime of life was asked, Why she did not marry again?

She answered, ' Because my husband is always present with me.'

This is a noble contrast to the story of the Ephesian matron.

A LATIN TRANSLATION.

825. THE estate pays a *modus*, and the copyhold is fine certain. ' Put this into forensic or Ciceronian Latin,' said a gentleman to his son, a young student of the law. ' Into Ciceronian Latin,' replied the student, I cannot ; but into Horatian I can. Thus :

' Est modus in rebus, sunt certi denique fines.'

DIAMOND CUTS DIAMOND.

826. Two ladies of high fashion, as they entered the rooms at Bath, met a citizen's fat wife finely dressed, coming out. ' See,' said one of them in a half-whisper, ' there is *beef-a-la-mode* going out.' ' Yes,' answered the fat lady, overhearing her, ' and there is *game* coming in.'

THE DIFFERENCE OF PROFESSIONS.

827. A PERSON observed to an eminent lawyer, that Buchan's ' Domestic Medicine' was a good book, because it qualifies every man to be his own physician. ' How far that may be the case, observed the eminent lawyer, ' I will not presume to determine ; but I may be allowed to speak decidedly as to my own profession ; and so I hesitate not to pronounce, that every man who is his own lawyer, has a fool for a client.'

SERVANTS.

828. IT was an observation of Elwes the noted miser, That if you keep *one* servant, your work will be done ; if you keep *two* it will be half done ; and if you keep *three*, you may do it yourself.

NEW DIVISIONS OF THE WORLD.

829. IN a party of wits who were disposed to be jocular, it was observed, That it was now become ridiculous to adhere to the old divisions of the globe. The name of *Europe* reminds us of the indelicate story of Europa and the bull Jupiter ; *Asia*, of luxurious nabobs ; *Africa*, of the Guinea Coast. at a time when, alas ! guineas are as scarce as Roman coins ; *America*, of those unnatural children who are fighting with their mother.

830. ' Leave the rest of mankind,' said a lively lady, to divide themselves into what classes they please ; we will each try to make a new division of our own circle of society.'

' Then,' said major Epicure, I divide society into two classes ; Those who give good dinners, and those whom they invite to eat them.'

' Rather,' said a young nobleman, who had nearly ruined himself by his profuse expences in building, and was conscious of his imprudence, ' let society be divided into these two classes ; The fools who built houses, and the wise men who tenant them.'

' All this is very ingenious,' said Dr. Logic ; ' but let me bespeak your applause by a new classification of both sexes. Thus, the orders of men are four :

' The *misers* who hoard every thing ;
 The *prodigals* who spend every thing ;
 The *croakers*, who fear every thing ;
 And the *grinners*, who laugh at every thing.

The orders of women are likewise four :

The *peacocks*, with whom dress is all ;
 The *magpies*, with whom chatter is all ;
 The *turtles*, with whom love is all ;
 And the *Paradise birds*, above them all.'

THE SAILOR'S JOY.

831. ONCE when admiral Pakenham, one of our renowned naval officers, landed at Portsmouth, a friend

asked him how he left the crew of his ship. 'O,' said he, 'I have left them all, to a man, the merriest fellows in the world.' 'How so?' 'Why, I flogged seventeen of them, and they are happy it is over; and all the rest are happy, because they have escaped.'

EQUIVOCAL PIGS.

832. A PERSON was prosecuted, and tried for stealing pigs. There was no doubt as to the fact: but as it was not stated in the indictment what sort of pigs they were, whether alive or dead, whether *animal* pigs, or pigs of *lead*, the prosecutor was nonsuited.

WILD FOWL.

833. A NOBLE lord adverted to the frequent minorities in which the ministry were in the year 1810, and yet they kept their places. 'They remind me very forcibly,' said he, 'of shooting wild towl in a large lake; for though you are fortunate enough to knock them down, it is extremely difficult to get them out.'

GASCONADES.

843. A GASCON and a Parisian had a violent quarrel; but their dispute was soon adjusted, as they were both of Fallstaff's way of thinking, that the best part of valour is discretion. 'You are very fortunate,' said the Gascon to the Parisian, 'not to have roused me beyond a certain degree of indignation. Had you teased me an atom more, I would have taken you up, and tossed you so high in the air, that the flies would have devoured every particle of your body, before it would have been possible for you to fall to the ground.'

835. 'The renown of our family,' said a Gascon gentleman, 'has not blazed with its full splendour, because there has been no historian like Plutarch to record the exploits of my heroic progenitors. And if such an historian had added to our family the Lives of the other great men of the province of Gascony, a library to contain his works would have reached from Bordeaux to Paris.'

836. A Frenchman who pretended he had very acute sight, said to a friend, as he was walking upon the Boulevards at Paris; 'Look, don't you see that mouse that is running along upon the top of Montmartre, about two miles off?' 'No,' said the friend, 'I can't see it—but hark! I hear it scratching: cannot you?'

837. Monsieur du Quesne, formerly a French teacher in Oxford, was informed in a large company that war had commenced between England and France. '*O mon pauvre roi*,' exclaimed he, '*le malheureux grand monarque!*—when you bring your army into the field of battle, you will look for your old friend Du Quesne. You will say, Where is Du Quesne, that invincible captain? if he comes not to fight by my side, I shall find myself in a great *embarras*; so I must immediately send a courier to St. James', and make peace with the king of England!'

838. A Frenchman, probably a native of Gascony, was taken to see Mrs. Siddons in the tragedy of *Isabella*. The performance he confessed was very fine; but the pathetic effect was by no means equal to what he had witnessed in Paris, at the representation of a *petite piece* called '*Misanthropy and Repentance*.' 'I was obliged,' said he, 'to hold my parasol over my head, to prevent my clothes from being spoiled by the showers of tears which fell from the front boxes immediately above me.'

That the English are not deficient in fertility of imagi

nation when they attempt the gasconade, the following example may convince us.

839. An English traveller, well known in the north of England, who delighted to see the symptoms of astonishment appear upon the visages of his auditors when he related his adventures ; was asked, If he met with good shooting when he was in Portugal. He said, There was good pigeon shooting, and the flocks were so large, that when they flew they darkened the air. 'Did you kill any of them?' was the question. 'No,' said the traveller; 'because when I fired I shot too low; but the first shot I made, I brought down a peck of their legs.'

The display of these bubbles of ostentation, or rather these meteors of extravagance, shall be closed with the following specimen. We are much mistaken if it can be exceeded by any thing of the kind.

840. A Norman and a Gascon were disputing upon the antiquity of their respective families. 'I can trace my pedigree from a very high source,' said the Norman: 'the founder of my family dined with William the Norman the day before he set off to conquer England.' 'Your house cannot possibly contend with ours upon the score of antiquity,' retorted the Gascon, 'if you stop at the *recent* æra of William the Norman. To silence you for ever upon the subject, know, to your confusion, that our family still pays a rent-charge for money borrowed. Now that money was expended by one of my ancestors in his journey to Bethlehem, when he went to see the adoration of our Saviour by the wise men of the East!!!'

PUNS, &c.

Containing some account of an intended Work on Punsters, and the whole Art and Mystery of Punning ; with a word or two on the Bulls of different Countries.

VARIOUS definitions have been given, both in ancient and modern times, of MAN. Plato said, 'he was a two-legged animal, without feathers : ' and when he so affirmed, he no doubt *plumed* himself on having put the subject upon a right footing — Mr. Burke thought the person worthy of great praise, who had determined man to be 'a rational cooking animal,' particularly as that definition fully explained the proverb, 'There is *reason* in *roasting eggs*.' — We do not deny, that these attempts at a right definition are very ingenious and very laudable ; but, after profound meditation, we are convinced that something better may be done to settle the important point. In short, we have made a discovery, — such an one indeed as adds to the glories of the present very enlightened age, and such as cannot fail to be transmitted to posterity as a proof of the perfection, the *ultima Thule*, which the science of metaphysics has reached ; we have found out the only true, satisfactory, and indisputable definition of man is, that he is a PUNNING animal. Travel where you may, from Archangel to Aberdeen, and from thence to Arabia ; trace the progress of nations, from the Huns to the Hurons and Hottentots ; to say nothing of the Jews, Greeks, Romans, French, English, &c. &c., and you will find the people of all countries are punsters, and have been so

from the earliest times. It is in contemplation to publish a most elaborate work, in as many volumes as some recent novels, in order to lay all our proofs, or rather to exhibit all the steps of the demonstration of this important truth before the world. This work will be printed upon wire-wove hot-pressed paper, in a new type cast on purpose, and will no doubt be subscribed for by all the crowned heads in Europe, as well as by the emperor of Hayti. As, however, we are aware of the lively interest which this notification is calculated to excite in the public mind; while the makers are busily at work manufacturing the paper, and the founders are casting the types, we shall endeavour to allay the ardent thirst of general curiosity, by presenting the public with the following sketch of our performance.

Puns are of two kinds. I. The *Echo* pun, when one word is so similar in sound to another, as to be nearly a repetition of it. II. The pun *Equivocal*, when a word is taken in two different senses.

Punning has the authority of high antiquity to plead in its favour. The use of the rhetorical figure called *paronomasia* is not uncommon in the Hebrew Scriptures, and many instances of puns are to be found in the Greek and Latin Classics. Even old Homer, very serious as he generally was, amused himself with this kind of plaything. He describes Ulysses, 'the man for wisdom's various arts renowned,' saving himself from being eaten alive, by the fabrication of a very seasonable equivoque. Ulysses tells Polypheme that his name is Noman (*Oυτις*;) and the unsuspecting giant gives him credit for speaking the truth. When the rest of the clan of Cyclops come running to the assistance of their out-witted brother, they inquire who had put out his eye. He says,—

'Friends, *Noman* kills me, *Noman* in the hour
Of sleep oppresses me with fraudulent power.'

The answer,—

‘If *no man* hurt thee, but the hand divine
Inflicts disease, it fits thee to resign;
To Jove, and to thy father Neptune pray,
The brethren cried, and instant strode away.’

Odys. ix.

841. We have before noticed the facetiousness of Cicero: it appears that he was fond of indulging in this species of it, as may be seen in the two following instances selected from many others. To a covetous farmer, who ploughed up the ground where his father was buried, he said, ‘*Hoc est verè sepulchrum patris colere.*’ And on Verro, who bought a very small field, and called it a farm, he wrote the following epigram:—

‘Fundum Varro vocat, quem possum mittere funda,
Ni tamen exciderit, qua cara funda patet.’

842. When Pope Gregory the Great, as Venerable Bede relates, saw some beautiful boys, who were to be sold for slaves in a market in Rome, he asked what country they came from? He was told they were *Angli*. ‘They are rightly so called,’ said he, ‘for they have the faces of *Angeli*, and are fit to share the inheritance of angels in heaven:’ So he sent St. Augustin to Britain, to convert the inhabitants. He was told that the name of the king of Britain was *Alla*: ‘Then,’ said he ‘*Alleluya* ought to be sung in that country to the praise of the Creator.’ When he was told these beautiful boys were born in a part of the island called *Deira*: ‘Then,’ said he, ‘*De Ira Dei sunt liberandi.*’

843. The custom of punning continued to prevail in the dark ages, and continued also to be applied to the most serious, or rather *grave* subjects. Witness the epitaph written upon Fair Rosamund, in the twelfth century:—

‘*Hic jacet in tumba Rosa Mundi, non Rosamunda,
Non redolet, sed olet, quæ redolere solet.*’

Shakspeare abounds in puns, as Plautus did before

him. Our great dramatist was indeed possessed by the most violent *mania* for this kind of wit : he indulged it upon all occasions, serious as well as comic ; and his kings and knights, courtiers and clowns, are like horses in a team, for all wear bells of the same metal, and make the same jingle. Milton is faulty in this respect, for he so far forgets the dignity of epic poetry,—the ‘ height of his great argument,’ as to make the fallen angels express their triumphant merriment in a string of puns.

The reign of James I. was the golden age of punning ; and the rage prevailed so much, during his and the succeeding reigns, in the universities of Oxford and Cambridge, that it seems rather extraordinary they did not confer degrees, or give prizes, to the best punsters. Some of the last keen word-hunters that were bred in the old school in Oxford, were Dr. Leigh, who was for more than half a century master of Baliol college, Dr. Barton, warden of Merton, Thomas Warton, of Trinity, and professor White. Many of their puns, good, bad, and indifferent, are still remembered by the senior members of the university ; but most of them have fallen into oblivion, with the occasions that produced them.

OXFORD PUNSTERS.

ANTHONY WOOD, the famous Oxford antiquary, compiled a collection of Bon Mots, called *Modius Sallium*. The following is a specimen of their attic or antiquarian salt.

844. ‘There was a large pear fit for baking which was called a *warden* pear. On the subject of warden pears, one *Clerk*, of Magdalen college, gave the following characters of the four wardens of his time thus:—Dr. Smith, one of the first wardens of Wadham, and young, he styled the *green* warden ;—Dr. Lake, warden of New college, ready to fall off to the bishoprick of Bath and Wells, the *ripe* warden ;—Sir Henry Saville, warden of Merton, gouty in body, the *rot-*

ten warden ;—and Dr. Mocket, warden of All-Souls, whose book on the liturgy of the church of England was burnt, the *roasted* warden.’

From a passage in ‘Cupid’s Revenge,’ by Beaumont and Fletcher, we may conclude that these pears were usually roasted :

‘I would have him roasted *like a warden*,
In brown paper.’

DR. LEIGH.

845. A ROGUSH tenant of Baliol college sily felled the trees upon his farm, and put the money in his pocket. Soon after he called upon Dr. Leigh to pay his rent, and the doctor inquired into the state of the trees. ‘Alas ! sir,’ said the tenant, ‘a great misfortune has happened to them ; a high wind has blown them all down.’ ‘No, no,’ said the doctor, who knew his man, you mistake ; it must have been not a *high* wind, but a *cutting* wind to do so much execution.’

DR. BARTON.

846. AT the time when the bridge was building over the Cherwell near Magdalen college, disputes often ran high between the university and the city of Oxford. Dr. Barton, warden of Merton college, was consulted whether it would not be proper to put up the arms of the university on one side of the bridge, and those of the city opposite to them, ‘I am,’ said he to those who consulted him, ‘no friend to the plan, as you know it is always unpleasant to see the university and the city *up in arms against each other*.’

847. Dr. Barton was in company with Dr. Nash, just as he was going to publish his work on the antiquities of Worcestershire. ‘I fear,’ said Dr. Barton, ‘there will be a great many inaccuracies in your books, when they come out.’ ‘How are errors to be

avoided ?' said Dr. Nash. 'Very easily,' said Dr. Barton ; 'Are you not a justice of peace ?' 'I am,' said Dr. Nash. 'Why then,' replied the old warden, 'you have nothing to do, but to send your books to the *house of correction*.'

848. Dr. Barton once invited Crowe, of New college, to dine with him. Crowe asked, who were coming. 'You see,' said the warden, 'here is *Rook*, and one *Bird more*, and then we will go to dinner.'—Rook and Birdmore were the names of two of the fellows of Merton.

MR. COOKE THE PROCTOR.

849. As the contest for the Clinical professorship was going on between Dr. Wall and Dr. Vivian, in the Convocation-house in Oxford, Dr. Sibthorp, well known for his parsimony, came to tender his vote. It was queried, upon the ground that his name did not appear upon the books of any college or hall. But it was argued, in support of his vote, that it was valid, as the doctor came under the description of the statute, as *Doctor commorans qui alit familiam*. Now it happened that Mr. Cooke of New college, to whom the case was referred, was both a wag and a punster. So alluding to the doctor's well-known œconomy, particularly in the article of malt liquor—'Qui alit, Ale it!' said the proctor, 'why he does not even *small beer it*.'

This joke was repeated through the Convocation-house ; and as it was a complete illustration of the *ridiculum acri* of Horace, by exciting a general laugh, it put all parties in good humour.

The following specimens, if not thought the best that can be given, at least show the prevalence of the practice of punning in various countries, and its extent among various classes in society.

In former times, punning was applied to all subjects, serious as well as jocose. In modern times, the great

object of the punster is to raise a laugh. This effect is generally produced ; although when he makes an unlucky attempt, the laugh is directed against himself. Thus an awkward sportsman is struck by the recoil of his own gun.

A LATIN PUN.

850. ONE of the best and most extensive that perhaps ever was made, was the application of a passage in Virgil's *Eclogues*, to a Collection of Puns : The address to the reader was, *Punica mala leges*.

A SPANISH PUN.

851. A BEAUTIFUL Spanish girl was playing on a guitar to a gentleman some of her national airs and songs, but did not accompany them with her voice. On his asking her to sing, she looked archly at him, and replied, *Yo no puedo cantar, pero puedo incantar*. Had she been playing sacred music, the pun might have been conveyed in an English translation. 'I cannot *chant*, but I can *enchant*.'

FRENCH PUNS.

852. DEUX predicateurs prechoient dans la meme eglise, dont l'un avoit une voix tres forte. Quel qu'un dit que la difference entre le predicateur du matin, et celui du soir etoit, que le premier prechoit *fort bien*, et le second *bien fort*.

853. L'opera *Fatmé*, etoit d'abord intitulé *Le Langage de Fleurs*. On demandoit, si l'on trouveroit beaucoup de *pensées* dans le *Langage de Fleurs*. 'Je puis repondre,' dit gaiement l'auteur, 'qu'au moins on n'y trouvera point de *soucis*.'

854. Le Pere Poreé, qui professoit avec tant d'eclat la rhetorique, rencontra un jour un magistrat qu'il

avoit loué dans une de ses harangues. Le celebre Jesuite s'inclina pour le saluer, celui ci ne lui rendit point le salut. 'Mon frere,' dit le Pere Poreé au religieux qui l'accompagnoit : 'Voila un magistrat *bien droit.*'

855. Lord Anson fell in with a French squadron, commanded by Jonquiere, a skilful and brave admiral. Several of his ships were taken, as well as Jonquiere himself. Among the prizes were two line-of-battle ships, l' *Invincible*, and la *Gloire*. Jonquiere when introduced to the victor paid him a compliment, which showed equal vivacity and good humour. 'You have,' said he to lord Anson, 'done wonders ; for you have conquered the *Invincible*, and you are followed by *Glory.*'

856. In the year 1791, at the time when the promoters of the French revolution were by many made the subjects of ridicule, the following punning epitaph upon Santerre the brewer, who had commenced soldier, was in every one's mouth in Paris, and was highly relished as a bon mot of the first class :—

'*Cy git Santerre,
Quin' a pas de Mars que sa bonne bière.*'

HORSES' TAILS.

857. In the rebellion in 1745, some disaffected rogues cut off the tails of the horses belonging to a regiment that was stationed in the King's Mews. When the defalcation was discovered, the colonel in great vexation exclaimed, 'What must we do ? 'Do !' said a wag, 'why you must sell the horses, by *wholesale.*' 'Why so ?' said the colonel. 'Because,' said he, 'it is very plain you cannot *re-tail* them.'

The delight of a punster reaches its acme, when he can make two puns upon the same word. Thus the skilful sportsman kills a bird with each of the barrels of his gun.

858. Old Dennis, the author of several plays, pass-

ing by a brandy-shop, the master came out, and desired the favour of him to drink a dram. 'For what reason?' said Dennis 'Because,' said the master, 'you are a *dramatic* poet.' When Dennis had complied with the invitation, and was going to walk away, the master asked him to pay for it. Dennis surprised said, 'Did you not ask me to drink a dram, because I was a *dramatic* poet?' 'Yes, sir,' replied the master, 'but I would not have asked you, had I thought you a dram at *tick* poet.'

859. Mr. Congreve going up the Thames in a boat, the watermantoled him, as they passed by Peterborough-house at Mill-bank, that the house had *sunk a story*. Mr. Congreve thinking this very extraordinary, 'Friend,' said he, 'I rather believe it is *a story raised*.'

A WATER DRINKER.

860. A RELATIVE of Mrs. Malaprop, well known for marring the words of her native language, complained, that in consequence of a disorder in her stomach, which she called a cataplasm (a spasm), her physician had put her into a *regiment* (a regimen), and ordered her to drink water. 'Surely madam,' said a wag, 'your regiment is the *Cold Stream*.'

THE IRISH BAR.

861. COUNSELLOR COLBACH, who was well known at the Irish bar for his great professional knowledge and acuteness, was remarkable for the shabbiness of his dress. One day, as he was coming into the court with his hands filled with briefs, he met a rival barrister. This gentleman, wishing to be severe upon the counsellor, said, 'What, are you here with your old clothes!' 'No,' said the counsellor, triumphantly showing him his papers, 'not with my *old clothes*, but with my *new suits*.'

ARTIFICIAL DIAMONDS.

862. A LADY at a supper given on a public occasion displayed in an ostentatious manner a profusion of artificial diamonds, which she had purchased at the shop of the well-known Dovey. She long teased a lady who sat next her with a great deal of impertinent conversation, and with obtrusive attention offered to help her to the dainties upon the table. 'Shall I,' said she, 'send you a *puff*?' 'I thank you, madam,' said the other, 'you had better take one yourself, as you seem to be very fond of *paste*.'

As a finale to this choice collection, we present the courteous reader with the following string of *Echo* puns, surpassing all others. It is taken from a very scarce work, published in the reign of James I. This precious *morceau* has been often printed in a very incorrect and imperfect manner:—we now present it in its original beauty.

863. A divine willing to play more with words, than to be serious in the expounding of his text, spake thus in some part of his sermon: 'This Dyall shewes we must *die all*: yet notwithstanding, all houses are turned into *ale-houses*; our cares are turned into *cates*; our paradise, is a *pair of dice*; our marriage, into a *merry age*; our matrimony, into a *matter of money*; our divines, into *dry vines*. It was not so in the days of Noah, *Ah no!*'

BULLS

OF VARIOUS COUNTRIES.

SOME persons were talking of Edgeworth's Essay on 'Irish Bulls,' and highly commended her for her ingenious vindication of her countrymen. One of the party observed, that 'among the natives of almost all countries, may be found instances of that ludicrous confusion of thoughts, that precipitate expression of incongruous ideas, which constitutes a bull : ' and he added, that ' Paddy the Irishman has a number of blunders attributed to him, of which he is in fact not the breeder ; at the same time, he must allow he has no small stock of his own to answer for.'

GREEK BULLS.

START not at this title, O ye ceaseless investigators of the profundities of Aristotle ; or ye infallible expounders of the metrical difficulties of Æschylus and Pindar ; or ye perspicuous solvers of the prophetic ænigmas of Lycophron ;—that you may be satisfied such creatures as Greek bulls are not the offspring of our invention ; but that they actually do exist, know, we discovered the following fine specimens in a work called *Αστυς*, attributed to Hierocles, an eminent Platonic philosopher, who, you may recollect, wrote a commentary on the Golden Verses of Pythagoras. This same person is celebrated by Photius, in his *Bibliotheca*,* for his splendid services as ambassador to foreign states from the Roman government ; and likewise for

* P. 554, &c.

his excellent literary productions, which Photius has reviewed. If you are not content with the following sample, Hierocles will supply you with more such neat cattle, as thorough-bred as were ever brought from the mountains of Wicklow, or the valleys of Ballynahinch,

We are not to be informed that some critics have expressed doubts whether the *Αστεία* be a genuine work of Hierocles. We leave this point for some *Bentley* to settle ; all we contend for, is, that the work is of Greek origin, that it is very antient, and written much in the style of the undoubted productions of Hierocles ; had it not possessed all these pretensions to authenticity, it would not have so long stood its ground, and been printed with his other works.

It is remarkable that the 'Ο Σχολαστικός (the Student or Scholar) is introduced merely to serve as a butt, just as the Oxford scholar is introduced by Joe Miller, in his 'Jest Book,' for the same convenient and ludicrous purpose.

864. A scholar wanting to swim, was nearly drowned in the attempt. Upon which he vowed he would never touch the water until he had been taught to swim.

865. A scholar wishing to catch a mouse that nibbled his books, baited a trap, and sat by it to watch.

866. A scholar, hearing it said that ravens lived to be two hundred years old, bought one, saying, 'I wish to try the experiment.'

This story is told by Furetière, the French lexicographer, of a friend of his. He has added a circumstance, indeed, which increases the magnitude of the bull ; for he says that his friend, when he purchased the raven, had passed his grand climacteric.

867. A scholar meeting a friend said, 'I dreamed last night that I saw you and talked with you.' 'I beg

your pardon,' said the friend, 'for not listening to what you said.'

868. A scholar wishing to know if he looked handsome when he was asleep, sat before a looking-glass with his eyes shut.

869. One of twin brothers happened to die. A scholar meeting the survivor, inquired of him: 'Pray tell me, which of you was it that died, you or your brother?'

These two last bulls pass current as genuine Irish.

870. A scholar, a bald-headed man, and a barber travelled together, and agreed to keep watch four hours at a time. It was the barber's turn to watch first; he employed himself in shaving the head of the sleeping scholar; and when his time of watching was expired, waked him. The scholar, rubbing his head, and finding it smooth, called out, 'What a rogue is this barber, for he has waked the bald-headed man, when he ought to have waked me!'

Here is a charming confusion of personal identity. This bull was lately circulated in a very genteel company, in London, as an excellent modern joke fresh from Ireland; and, as usual, an Irishman was substituted for the scholar, and made the butt of the tale.

A SPANISH BULL.

871. A STUDENT of the university of Salamanca, going out with a party to shoot rabbits, was desired not to talk lest he should frighten and hinder them from coming out of the woods to feed. As soon as he saw several of them running out, he exclaimed, *Ecce cuniculi multi*. When his companion blamed him, he expressed his surprise by saying; 'Who could suppose that rabbits understand Latin?'

872. The following Spanish proverb seems of the bull breed: *El mejor de los dados es no jugarlos*. 'The best use of dice, is not to play with them.'

FRENCH BULLS.

873. A FRENCH lady of quality, seeing the funeral procession of her husband, exclaimed, 'Ah ! how happy would my poor husband be if he could see this sight, as he was so remarkably fond of such ceremonies.'

874. A person asked a French boy, Who was the elder, he or his brother. 'I am the elder of the two *now*,' said the boy ; 'but if my brother should live another year, we shall be both of an age.'

875. The executive council of France exhorted his holiness the pope, in 1792, to preserve his *spiritual* and *temporal* dominion by *renouncing his authority*.

ENGLISH BULLS.

876. AN Irishman very justly observed, that the English make bulls in writing, when they may be supposed to have time to deliberate, as well as in conversation, when they are more exposed to the errors of haste. Thus it is no very rare thing to hear persons talk of *ill-health, bad success, acquitted felons, much too little, vastly little, monstrously small, a stone hedge, a glass ink-horn, and a man-midwife*.

Theobald says, in his 'Double False-hood : '—

'None but himself can be his parrallel.'

This is an ancient bull, for it occurs in an inscription to an old print of Colonel Giles Strangeways, in the reign of Charles II.

'None but himself, himself can parrallel.'

877. In an English newspaper was the following passage :—'A number of deaths are unavoidably postponed.'

878. At the time Drury-Lane Theatre was repairing, the following notice was published :—‘ Drury-Lane opens at the Opera-House on the 10th of next month.’

879. Over a door on the road from Brighton to Lewes is the following notice :—‘ Fresh sea-water sold here.’

880. A very capital practical bull is said to have been bred in the time of the first American war. One ship was sent to America loaded with cannon, and a second with powder, and a third with ball. The consequence was, that if one was taken, the other two were likely to be of little or no comparative use, to what they might have been, if their cargoes had been mixed.

IRISH BULLS.

UNDER this head, we confess our conviction that it is not very easy to exhibit Irish bulls so original that they cannot be matched both for size and spirit by others of a foreign breed.

881. Take from an Irish newspaper the following advertisement of lands to be let to an *improving tenant*. ‘ A few miles from Cork, in a *most sporting country*, bounded by an uncommon fine turf bog, on the verge of which there are a number of fine *lime-kilns*, where *that manure* may be had on very moderate terms, the distance for carriage not being many hundred yards. The whole lands being now in great heart and completely laid down, entirely surrounded and divided by *impenetrable furze ditches, made of quarried stone laid edgeways*.’

882. This bull certainly looks very finely, but we have met with one of English breed, who trots well by his side. Dr. Grey, in his notes on Hudibras, records the deposition of a lawyer, who in an action of battery

told the judge, that the defendant beat his client with a certain *wooden instrument* called an *iron pestle*.*

883. An Irishman was asked how his mother did.—‘My jewel,’ said he, ‘I am much obliged to you for your inquiries, but I never had a mother.’ ‘How is that?’ said his friend. ‘Why, don’t you know,’ said Paddy, ‘that I am the son of my aunt?’

884. An Irishman was travelling in a chaise with a gentleman, who expressed great concern, lest some *china* he had in a box with him should be broken. As the carriage was rattling over the rough pavement of Brentford, the Irishman exclaimed, ‘You have indeed reason to fear for your *china*, for they would now be dashed to pieces, if they were made of iron.’

BULL AFTER BULL:

885. IN Faulkner’s ‘Freeman’s Journal,’ published in Dublin, the editor, during the government of the duke of Dorset, removed an error of the press in the following *correct* manner.—Erratum: In our last Journal, for ‘*her* grace the *duke* of Dorset,’ read ‘*his* grace the *duchess*.’

886. An Irishman observing the increase of houses in London, said, very forcibly, ‘London is gone out of town, and there will be no end of the streets, but the Land’s End.’



‘Thus, gentle reader (to use the words of an old comedian,) we have conducted thee through a motley masquerade, not given by broad-laughing *Momus*, but by the sweetly-smiling *Euphrosyne*, and therein thou hast viewed personages both of high and low condition;

* Edgeworth, p. 39.

to wit, sovereigns and serving-men, courtiers and clowns, gentlewomen and gypsies ; and if perchance thou hast not found delectation in beholding their dainty dresses, and hearing their merry conceits, go hie thee to an hermitage and from thence view the checkered garniture of magpies, and hearken to the ominous outcry of owlets : but if thou hast relished our peerless pastime, and it has solaced thy sinking spirits, fail not heartily to commend us, the masters, of the revels, who have presented such innocent images and pleasant pictures to exhilarate thy fancy, and furnished thee with such choice and cheap entertainment !'

Farewell.















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